



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon**

**The National Assembly for Wales  
The Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee**

**Dydd Mercher, 28 Mehefin 2006  
Wednesday, 28 June 2006**

**Cynnwys**  
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,  
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.  
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

*Aelodau Cynulliad yn bresennol: Rosemary Butler (Cadeirydd), Eleanor Burnham, Lisa Francis, Denise Idris Jones, Laura Anne Jones, Val Lloyd, Alun Pugh (y Gweinidog dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon), Owen John Thomas.*

*Swyddogion yn bresennol: Neil Cox, Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau; Gwilym Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro y Gyfarwyddiaeth dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon; Margaret Evans, Cyfarwyddwr, y Gyfarwyddiaeth dros Ddiwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chwaraeon; O. Gwyn Griffiths, Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol y Pwyllgor.*

*Eraill yn bresennol: David Alston, Cyfarwyddwr y Celfyddydau, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru; Cledwyn Ashford, Dewiswr Chwaraewyr dan 16 oed, Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Ysgolion Cymru; Jamie Clewer, Cydlynnydd Cenedlaethol Pêl-droed i'r Anabl, Ymddiriedolaeth Elusennol Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru; Peter Hosking, Uwch Swyddog Polisi, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru; Michael Houlihan, Cyfarwyddwr, Amgueddfa Cymru; Keith James, Is-gadeirydd yr Adran Chwaraewyr dan 16 oed, Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru; Gareth Jones, Swyddog Polisi, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru; David Nickless, Ysgrifennydd yr Adran Chwaraewyr dan 16 oed, Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Ysgolion Cymru; Mike Tooby, Cyfarwyddwr, Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Caerdydd; Peter Tyndall, Prif Weithredwr, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru; Neil Ward, Rheolwr Cyffredinol, Ymddiriedolaeth Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru; Debbie Wise, Cydgysylltydd Cenedlaethol Pêl-droed i Fenywod a Merched, Ymddiriedolaeth Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru.*

*Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgor: Julia Annand, Clerc; Vaughan Watkin, Dirprwy Glerc.*

*Assembly Members in attendance: Rosemary Butler (Chair), Eleanor Burnham, Lisa Francis, Denise Idris Jones, Laura Anne Jones, Val Lloyd, Alun Pugh (the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport), Owen John Thomas.*

*Officials in attendance: Neil Cox, Members' Research Service; Gwilym Evans, Acting Director, Directorate for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport; Margaret Evans, Director, Directorate for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport; O. Gwyn Griffiths, Legal Adviser to the Committee.*

*Others in attendance: David Alston, Arts Director, Arts Council of Wales; Cledwyn Ashford, Under-16 Selector, Welsh Schools Football Association; Jamie Clewer, National Disability Football Co-ordinator, Football Association of Wales Charitable Trust; Peter Hosking, Senior Policy Officer, Children's Commissioner for Wales; Michael Houlihan, Director General, National Museum Wales; Keith James, Vice Chair, Under-16 Welsh Schools Football Association; Gareth Jones, Policy Officer, Children's Commissioner for Wales; David Nickless, Under-16 Secretary, Welsh Schools Football Association; Mike Tooby, Director, National Museum Cardiff; Peter Tyndall, Chief Executive, Arts Council of Wales; Neil Ward, General Manager, Football Association of Wales Trust; Debbie Wise, National Women's and Girls' Football Co-ordinator, Football Association of Wales Trust.*

*Committee Service: Julia Annand, Clerc; Vaughan Watkin, Deputy Clerc.*

*Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.02 a.m.  
The meeting began at 9.02 a.m.*

## **Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau, Dirprwyon a Datgan Buddiannau Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

[1] **Rosemary Butler:** Good morning, and welcome to this meeting of the Culture, Welsh

Language and Sport Committee. Lisa Francis will be slightly late; we have received her apologies.

[2] As usual, I remind everyone to switch off their mobile phones, BlackBerrys and any other electronic equipment that they may have with them. I ask that everyone, including those in the public gallery, turn off their devices altogether rather than put them on 'sleep' mode, as they interfere with the broadcasting equipment.

[3] I have not been told of any emergency practices this morning, so if there is an alarm, it will be an actual fire alarm. In that case, please leave the room quickly and the attendants will show you the safest way out of the building.

[4] I remind Members that if you have any declarations of interest that you have not already declared, please remember the Presiding Officer's rules and regulations. If, during the meeting, there is anything that you feel that you should declare, please do so.

[5] This afternoon, in Plenary, we have our debate on our report on English-language newspapers. Hard copies have already been circulated.

[6] The next meeting will be held at the National Botanic Garden of Wales. Although the meeting is due to start at 1.30 p.m., we have arranged a guided tour of the gardens at 12 p.m. so we can give you the details of that. If anyone needs transport from here to the gardens, the clerk will arrange that.

9.04 a.m.

### **Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Blaenorol Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

[7] **Rosemary Butler:** Does anyone want to make any comments on the minutes? I see not. Are there any matters arising? We do not do matters arising though, do we? We will therefore look at the points of action. I think that most of the points are either in hand or before us today. If there is anything that anyone wants to raise, please raise it with the clerk.

*Cadarnhawyd cofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol.  
The minutes of the previous meeting were ratified.*

9.05 a.m.

### **Adolygiad o Bêl-droed yng Nghymru Review of Football in Wales**

[8] **Rosemary Butler:** I am pleased that we have our evidence givers here this morning, even though it is only 9 a.m., so thank you very much for coming. The purpose of this session is to look particularly at the development issues for young people, football for women and girls, and those with disabilities. Presentations will be given by a number of people, but we also have with us Neil Ward, who has been with us before. You are welcome to sit at the table if you wish, Neil. I understand that, unfortunately, Rob Lewis from the south Wales girls' football league is unable to be with us this morning due to family commitments, but he will give us a written paper at a future date instead. So, this morning we have the Welsh Schools Football Association with us. Cledwyn Ashford is the under-16s selector, David Nickless is the under-16s secretary, and Keith James is the vice-chair. Welcome, gentlemen. From the Football Association of Wales Trust, we have the youth and disabilities officer, Jamie Clewer, and Debbie Wise, the women and girls' football co-ordinator. The representative from the

office of the children's commissioner has yet to arrive. We welcome you all. If you would like to give your evidence first, we will run through you all and then ask questions, provided you are comfortable with that. We find it easier that way, because, if we stop after every one, we never get to the final presentation. So, who will start this morning? I see that the schools will.

[9] **Mr Ashford:** Diolch yn fawr iawn am y gwahoddiad i ddod yma'r bore yma. **Mr Ashford:** Thank you very much for the invitation to come here this morning.

[10] It is nice to be invited and to give our presentation. Diolch o galon.

[11] Byddaf yn siarad yn Saesneg, oherwydd credaf fod y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ddi-Gymraeg; mae hynny'n sicr yn wir am fy mhen i o'r bwrdd. I will speak in English, because I believe that most people are non-Welsh speakers; that is certainly true of my end of the table.

[12] We are looking at the review of football in Wales, and we were delighted to be asked to give a presentation, because we feel that we have a long history of providing football in Wales, and this is why we have put this together. Please excuse me if I am not very good, but I will do my best—you can tell that I am an amateur. [*Laughter.*] I think that you have seen this presentation before, but I will go through it in the five minutes that we have.

[13] First, we have the mission statement for the Welsh Schools Football Association. It is very much in line with the things that we do in schools generally. Our aim is to encourage the mental, moral and physical development of all pupils and students. We are unique as we are the only organisation that can have all pupils in Wales in our care—everyone has to go to school. I am 54, and I am still in school. [*Laughter.*] Every child has to go to school, and, therefore, we hope that we can influence and encourage them in many ways. We provide competitions for primary and high-school pupils up to the age of 16. Some come back to study for A-levels, so we have some of them until they are 18. That is why we have a situation where we have international football at 15, 16 and under 18, under the rules of the Schools Association International Board and FIFA. We are lucky to be able to do that. In the last four years, we have been doing it in association with the FAW Trust, working with the FAW and the FAW Trust in identifying and developing young players—and believe you me, I mean young. We are identifying them now as young as eight, nine or 10, which is quite interesting.

[14] We now go on to look at sport for all, which is important, but we are looking particularly at football. Every school has physical education lessons and inter-house games. It depends on which school the children attend, but every school has the opportunity to provide this for all children. I know, Chair, that we met representatives of the sports merit award, or the sport Wales award, and many schools provide tremendous opportunities for children, of which football is one. There are inter-school games on a regional basis. In our own authority, along with Wrexham, around 160 schools take part in inter-school football. The games also take place on a national level. Children can begin by playing at a regional level, and then go on to play at a national level. They have fantastic success. However, it is not all about that; we want to identify the true category-A players, but it is also important that we provide the grass-roots football that everyone can enjoy—both boys and girls.

9.10 a.m.

[15] There are area association competitions based on unitary authorities, which have been going on for many years. We also have the district competitions, which also provide an opportunity for the better players to play quality football and compete. We then go on to regional development groups in north and south Wales. That started around 10 years ago,

when we felt that it was important to identify the players who would be our future internationals. We felt that we could do that as a Welsh schools forum, because we had the contacts in the schools and the leagues, and we were able to identify these players, get them together and then develop them as two groups. In the last few years, that was done in conjunction with the FAW Trust.

[16] On north and south Wales teams, some of our young people have the honour of representing their zone, whether it is north or south Wales. That is as far as some of those youngsters go, but what a marvellous achievement to represent the area in which they live. We ensure that that is recognised by presenting them with certificates to be put in their records of achievements, because when they go for job opportunities, it is an ideal way of showing that they have represented their area.

[17] Some are lucky enough to go on to the national team. We have been running the national team and the under-15 and under-16 teams for many years. In the last three years, we have worked closely with the FAW Trust and the success has continued. These children will, hopefully, go on to represent us at Welsh level. Mr Brian Flynn works very closely with us at the moment. He has been to our last four get-togethers. He is identifying players ready for the under-17 and under-19 groups. You have the national teams, and we have those who are under 15 and under 16. You can see above that we have an excellent structure system for player identification. All players are seen and monitored regularly by national selectors—people like myself and Mr Nickless, Mr Flynn in south Wales and Mr Williams. We go around numerous games on weekends, nights and so on to see them. We just watch young people play football. There is a lot of talent out there and it is a great honour to see them.

[18] On arrangements for the FAW Trust, we have a service level agreement between the two parties for the national and regional groups at the under-15 and under-16 levels. That is currently under review and we will look at that a week on Saturday, because we have a Welsh schools council. We represent the hundreds and thousands of school teachers in Wales and we are honoured to do so. We will then be in discussion with Mr Neil Ward and his colleagues on our agreement. It is important that it is a partnership, which we will also discuss a week on Saturday.

[19] In future, we would like to see a similar arrangement to set up centres of excellence in each unitary authority. I think that this is the way forward. At the moment, there is much fragmentation, because we have the schools, the trust and the league of Wales clubs, with six or seven different people trying to do different things. We feel, as Welsh schools, that the best way forward is to have one type of unitary authority set-up in partnership with other people that can get the quality people together to give them opportunities.

[20] These centres would be staffed by schoolteachers and that is important. They still have a significant part to play in children's education, although many would say that that is not the case. For me, children's education comprises many factors, one of which is football. They have had three or four years' experience of knowing how to deal with children and I think that they need to be part of this. We have the football development officers and their coaching staff, who are very important to this set-up.

[21] Players are coached weekly and play in competition in the existing school system. We have a fantastic structure in place. No-one has anything like the structure that we have in terms of the number of children competing and the structure itself on area, regional and district levels. It is run by very enthusiastic and unpaid people, who do it voluntarily because they love doing it. They have done it for many years and that will continue.

[22] If centres were set up by league of Wales clubs, we would have a slight problem with that. In some areas, there are too many clubs chasing too few players, and some of the clubs

are not in existence. So, in some areas, you might have three or four league of Wales clubs and if we use those as a centre—and it has happened in our area—it will not be successful, because, first, children do not know which to go to and, secondly, there is too much choice. In other areas, children have too far to travel. It would be far better to have these unitary authority centres, where you know that there would be one in each authority. That would make sense.

[23] On Welsh Schools Football Association competitions, there are six inter-association national competitions for under 11s to under 15s. I will not bore you on this, but on inter-area competitions for those who are under 13, we offer a range of competitions and, as you can see, they are extensive, and they give all children an opportunity to play at national, district, or association level. For instance, in Flintshire, 10 are offered to children.

[24] On facilities, and looking at the future, in general, the state of pitches is below standard at schools, leisure centres and local authorities. I can say that because I have been to Slovakia, Belgium, Holland, and other places, where the standard is much higher. Please do not think that I am having a go at you on this—I am having a go at everything in general. We have lacked foresight in looking at our pitches and the standard of them; good pitches are badly needed—they are few and far between.

[25] On the lack of maintenance, this is a big issue at present in Flintshire. There is a marked difference between private schools and state schools. Going past King's, just outside Rossett, and seeing the standard of their pitches, you think, 'What I would give for that in my area, so that the children could benefit from it'.

[26] It is imperative to have a national development centre. We went to Slovakia and Belgium with the under-15 boys. Their facilities are outstanding—from 13 to 19 only—which was an eye-opener for us. There are no suitable grassed areas, for instance, for coaching sessions at the Welsh Institute of Sport, which is a disadvantage.

[27] On finance—the F-word—besides the under-15 and under-16 national squad development groups, there are national teams. The WSFA is self-funded—we have nothing except self-funding. We are indebted to the FAW Trust, which helps us finance the under-15s and the under-16s, but, otherwise, all those other developments that I speak about are voluntarily funded—there is no funding at all from the Welsh FA or from the trust. The grass-roots work is done directly by us.

[28] On the national squad, and the national teams at under-15 and under-16 levels, as I say, they are funded by the FAW Trust and the WSFA; a greater proportion comes from the trust, and we could not have done it without it. In the past, the WSFA received grants from the FAW and the sports council. This is now paid to the FAW Trust, and we have no knowledge of the amount or anything of that nature. No finance from the FAW Trust filters down to the WSFA to fund the grass roots, because I am sure that it is restricted the same as everyone else. Therefore, competition and activities are funded by ourselves. There is no funding for the under-18 international squad at present.

[29] On the FAW and the FAW Trust relationship, as an association, we are not in a position to comment, as we are not privy to their relationships and agreements—both financial and managerial. Therefore, we cannot comment on that.

[30] On future direction, the WSFA and the FAW Trust should renew current partnership agreements for the national squads and team. We are keen to do that. There are a few things to iron out, but I am positive that they will be. The WSFA and the FAW Trust, in partnership, need to set up these centres of excellence in each unitary authority. That is imperative. At present, FAW Trust personnel, who are half-financed, I believe, between the unitary

authorities and the trust in some areas, rely greatly on our facilities in schools.

[31] On great funding—I am sorry, grant funding; it would be great—for LEAs to allow schools to release teachers to accompany teams to games, this is a slight problem that we have. As you know, especially if you have been involved in education—in terms of the workload agreement and planning, preparation and assessment—it is difficult to release staff to go with children, whether they represent the school, the county, or an association. Unfortunately, headteachers do not get any form of funding to be able to do that.

[32] On grant funding for teachers to support extra-curricular activities, this has been discussed at a national level in London. All the teachers that give of their time do so for free. There is no funding at all for teachers to do this out-of-hours work—they go on Saturdays, and at nights, and they go to the squads that we have in partnership with the FAW Trust. There is no compensation at all—it is purely voluntary. We could perhaps look at that.

[33] Improvements in playing facilities in schools, leisure centres and playing fields are a must for the future. We need the provision of a grassed coaching area at the Welsh Institute of Sport for the national development squads. Developing a national development centre would be forward-looking; there is one in Scotland—we have been there twice, I believe, Mr Nickless—and it is a fantastic facility to have.

[34] On funding to filter down to the WSFA to enable it to continue to operate its extensive programme of football for all, as I say, again, we are the only association that can do that, because every child has to come to school. Funding to assist the WSFA in running the under-18 national squad is rather a contentious issue, but we feel that young people who decide to stay in school and take their A-levels should have the opportunity to play international football. At the moment, the only way that they can do that is through the system.

9.20 a.m.

[35] We firmly believe that the skills, experiences and expertise of WSFA personnel and its member associations should be utilised fully in co-operation with other bodies to ensure that the structure effectively supports football in Wales.

[36] There will be co-operation between the WSFA and the FAW Trust to initiate quality standards in football, for inter-schools football and WSFA member associations football.

[37] I am sorry had to rush the presentation, but I was aware that I had a strict time limit. I hope that it is in order, Chair.

[38] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you—the hard copy is very useful, and there will no doubt be many questions in a while. Who is going next? Jamie? Jamie is the disabilities officer for the FAW Trust.

[39] **Mr Clewer:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Jamie Clewer and I am employed by FAW Trust, and I am the national co-ordinator for disability football. I will talk through the paper that you have, hopefully, received prior to the meeting. I will highlight the progress on the disability programme so far. The disability programme has been in existence from early 2004. I will also briefly talk through the five key aims of our national disability football strategy for 2005 to 2010, and I will just quickly highlight a few operational key issues to make you aware of them.

[40] Where are we now? Currently, there are two part-time national disability football co-ordinators—I job share the role with a lady called Nicola Tennant. We have regional remits; I



cover south Wales up to mid-Powys and Ceredigion, and Nicola covers further north.

[41] In terms of provision, an audit was undertaken in January this year, and we currently have eight pan-disability football clubs across Wales. For those of you who do not know, pan-disability football is an environment in which children with differing impairments come together to play in the same environment, so it is not specific. The six major impairment groups are learning disability, deaf, blind, visual impairment, cerebral palsy and amputee. At the time that the audit was done, in January, there were approximately 267 children playing regular football across Wales. Since the audit, we are up to about 12 clubs, and it is estimated that there are approximately 350 to 400 children playing football in a football-specific environment in Wales.

[42] Allied to that, we also have two specific partially-sighted football clubs—one in partnership with Swansea City Football Club and the other in partnership with Cardiff City Football Club. Approximately 25 children play in those clubs.

[43] There is also a deaf-specific club based at Llantwit Major, which is an adult side. It has approximately 20 players, and it draws players from across Wales. It recently reached the semi-finals of the British Deaf Cup, and narrowly lost to Fulham on penalties.

[44] Alongside that, and developed by Disability Sport Wales, approximately 10 multi-sport clubs play football regularly and about 130 children take part in those clubs.

[45] We also have a schools programme, and the key aim is to get children playing football and moving on into the club structures. We have worked with 30 special schools or units across Wales during the past two years. The programme is funded by the community chest fund—we provide equipment and a trained coach to go into the school to deliver a 10-week coaching programme. Approximately 300 children have participated in sessions through that method. We have also organised regional schools festivals allied to that, and approximately 500 children have been to festivals so far.

[46] We have an annual national disabilities football tournament for clubs, which is based at Aberystwyth. Our event in 2006 took place two weeks ago—we had 14 teams from across Wales with 80 children taking part. It was a great day, although we all got sunburned, unfortunately.

[47] We have a dedicated programme for children with visual impairments, in partnership with the Royal National Institute for the Blind Cymru, Swansea City Football Club and Cardiff City Football Club's football in the community schemes, as I mentioned before. The reason for having specific visual impairment and blind programmes is because, as you are probably aware, visual disability is a sensory disability and it is not necessarily easy for those children to integrate into a pan-disability environment.

[48] We also have the FAW footballers with a disability workshop, which is a three-hour theory workshop and coach education course. It helps to raise the awareness of coaches of disability issues and it is the first sport-specific coach education course on disability in Wales. We have also recently established a national disability football forum, on which are represented all the key partners and stakeholders of disability sport and disability football in Wales—the likes of the FAW and the Federation of Disability Sport Wales are represented on that body. So, that is an overview of where we are now.

[49] I will briefly talk through the five key aims of our national strategy for 2006 to 2010. The first is club development. As I mentioned, we currently have approximately 12 clubs, but it is our aim, by 2007, to have 22 pan-disability football clubs across Wales, that is, one per local authority. Linked to that, we will have a schools programme that will be aimed at

getting children involved in football and then making that key link to the clubs, to ensure that they are sustainable. Our aim is to engage every single special school or unit across Wales and to provide extra-curricular opportunities for children to play football in those schools.

[50] As you are probably aware, the FAW Trust runs the McDonald's/FAW Trust primary school accreditation scheme. We have recently amended the programme so that it is now inclusive of disability. We now provide, in addition to a generic schools bag, a disability-specific equipment bag for schools, and we also have—as I mentioned before—a programme of festivals. We are hoping, from September 2006 onwards, to extend that from secondary to primary schools as well. That will mean that there will be competitive opportunities for all children with disabilities in special education across Wales.

[51] On competition structures, I mentioned the schools festivals, which we are hoping to develop eventually into a proper special schools competition across Wales. Hopefully, that will be done in consultation with the WSFA and with its endorsement. We will also be looking to work closely with the area associations and the FAW to develop a number of regional festival leagues, which will allow our clubs to play regular football, four or five times a year, at a central venue. So, clubs will have four or five regional festivals and then a national festival, therefore, there will be six opportunities for children to play regular football across Wales.

[52] On coach education, I mentioned the workshop. We are currently have work in progress on a practical course, which will be ready from January 2007. That will be a six-hour one-day course to help coaches to get to grips with organising coaching sessions and being able to adapt their sessions to work with players who have a disability. There will also be a third tier of qualification that we are looking to develop, which would be impairment-specific modules, so there would be a deaf module, for example, which will take that a step further and give coaches real, in-depth information of specific impairment groups. Those will be aimed at potential coaches who will work within a player-development structure for disability football.

[53] The fifth key area of work is communication. A lot of disparate organisations have a stake in disability sport and disability football, not only in Wales, but in the whole of the UK. It is crucial that we ensure that there are good and clear communication channels throughout all those organisations. The forum is helping to do this. This has been work in progress, and we need to keep on doing that.

[54] So, that is an overview of the key aims of the strategy. I will just run through four issues—I was asked to highlight some issues in relation to the programme, so I will do that now. The first, as I mentioned, is linked to communication, and it is really about the management of partnerships to ensure the continued delivery of the disability football programme. On a local basis, there is a football development officer in each local authority in Wales, there is also a disability sports officer employed by the Federation of Disability Sport Wales. That is 22 local partnerships that we need to manage, not to mention the partnerships that we need to manage between the FAW, the WSFA and the Federation of Disability Sport Wales. So, it will be a key area of work to ensure that those partnerships are managed well, so that the programme is ultimately successful.

[55] The second point is an issue to do with transport. You may be aware that it is an issue that is highlighted in a number of disability areas, not just sport. It is linked to the practicalities and logistics of developing a competition structure and also to looking at developing player-development structures. Transport and travelling are not always easy for children or adults with a disability. Currently, public funds do not necessarily support the provision of transport to support this. I am not saying that I necessarily disagree with that, but the key thing is, and I understand that it is an issue of sustainability, but if we cannot provide

children or adults with a disability the support to travel, our competition structures and our player-development structures will struggle to be successful. We will not have the player numbers. Wales is a rural country and that has an impact on how we can drive the programme forward to a certain degree.

9.30 a.m.

[56] The third point is an issue of welfare. I mentioned that we have 12 clubs: they are predominantly under-16 clubs, but we have a wide spectrum of children from roughly eight to 16 years of age and they are of mixed gender. The FAW has rules on age bandings and mixed-gender football, but we need to look at a welfare policy and a rules and regulations structure that is suitable for disability and is aware of key welfare issues. We perhaps need to look at a structure that has wider age bands and allows mixed-gender football to make disability football sustainable in Wales, as I mentioned before on the other issues.

[57] The fourth key issue, which I did not talk about in terms of the aims, but is included in the national strategy, is that we have outlined that, by 2010, we would like to have representative teams from Wales in the six impairment groups that I mentioned earlier. This will have key implications and one is funding. The FAW looks after the male and female national squads, but there is only one each of those, a male and a female team; with disability football there would potentially be six teams, as I mentioned earlier, including teams for those with learning disabilities and the blind and so on. Allied to that, you would possibly also have regional development centres or regional squads and then junior sides. Therefore, funding will have to be a key consideration to enable the key bodies to support those teams.

[58] My second key point on that concerns responsibility for the development of those squads. The FAW Trust is given the remit of disability football by the FAW. However, the FAW is responsible for the national squads involving players above 16 years of age. We also answer to the Federation of Disability Sport Wales, the national governing body for disability sport in Wales. We really need to look at a partnership between the three bodies to ensure that we all work together on the aim of developing national squads for Wales, so that we can represent Wales on the international stage, just as the other home nations are doing. I apologise if I rather rushed through that. Disability can be quite a complex matter, so if there are any questions, feel free to ask them later.

[59] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you, Jamie. I have a system of yellow and red cards, but we have not had any yellow ones yet, so that is fine. Debbie, are you going to make your presentation now?

[60] **Ms Wise:** Bore da i chi gyd. A **Ms Wise:** Good morning to you all. Would fyddai gwahaniaeth gennyh pe bawn yn you mind if I spoke in Welsh? siarad yng Nghymraeg?

[61] I do not get the opportunity too often to make a presentation in Welsh, so I would like to take this opportunity to do so.

[62] Yr wyf yn credu eich bod i gyd wedi I believe that you have all received the paper. derbyn y papur. A wyf yn gywir i feddwl Am I right in thinking that? hynny?

[63] **Rosemary Butler:** Yes, I am sure that they have all received the paper.

[64] **Ms Wise:** Gwych. Cyn i mi symud **Ms Wise:** Wonderful. Before I move on to ymlaen i edrych ar y papur yn fanylach, look at the paper in greater detail, I would hoffwn esbonio beth yw fy rôl fel cydlynnydd like to explain my role as football co-

pêl-droed i ferched a menywod yng Nghymru. Fel y gwyddoch, caf fy nghyflogi gan yr ymddiriedolaeth ac mae gennyf ddau brif amcan fel rhan o'm rôl. Un o'r amcanion hynny yw cynyddu nifer y merched a menywod sy'n chwarae'r gêm. Yr ail yw gwella safon y chwarae er mwyn cefnogi ein tîmoedd cenedlaethol, yn sicr y tîmoedd o dan 17 ac o dan 19 mlwydd oed a'r tîmoedd uwch. Fy rôl i yw eu cefnogi.

ordinator for women and girls in Wales. As you know, I am employed by the trust and I have two main objectives as part of my role. One of those objectives is to increase the number of women and girls who play the game. The second is to improve the standard of play to support our national teams, certainly the under-17, under-19 and senior teams. My role is to support them.

[65] Os edrychwn yn fanylach ar y papur, fel y gallwch weld, crëwyd strategaeth yn benodol ar gyfer y gêm i ferched a menywod. Crëwyd y strategaeth honno i sicrhau bod y cyfan yn ffitio i strategaeth yr ymddiriedolaeth, i adeiladu ar y llwyddiant ac i gynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae'r strategaeth hefyd yn cyd-fynd ag amcanion strategaeth 'Dringo'n Uwch' y Cynulliad. Mae popeth wedi'u ffitio at ei gilydd, felly yr ydym i gyd yn anelu at yr un nod. Yn fras, yr wyf am grynhoi'r hyn a ddywedir, gan fod eithaf tipyn wedi'i ddweud yn y papur o ran stâd neu sefyllfa'r gêm ar hyn o bryd.

If we look in more detail at the paper, as you can see, a specific strategy was created for the women's and girls' game. That strategy was created to ensure that it all fits in with the trust's strategy, to build on success and to plan for the future. The strategy also concurs with the aims of the Assembly's 'Climbing Higher' strategy. Everything has been fitted together, so we are all aiming for the same objective. Broadly, I want to summarize what is said, because quite a lot of information is given in the paper in terms of the state or situation of the game at present.

[66] Ar hyn o bryd, mae gennym tua 3,000 o ferched a thua 1,000 o fenywod yn chwarae pêl droed drwy Gymru. Mae gennym bump cynghrair uwch a 12 cynghrair ar gyfer merched, sy'n cynnwys pedair is-adran. Mae gennym ddwy garfan ddatblygu ranbarthol, yng ngogledd a de Cymru, ac un garfan ddatblygu genedlaethol.

At present, we have some 3,000 girls and 1,000 women playing football across Wales. We have five senior leagues and 12 girls' leagues and they include four divisions. We have two regional development squads, in north and south Wales, and one national development squad.

[67] O ran lle yr hoffem fynd, mae targedau heriol iawn wedi'u nodi yn y strategaeth ac yr ydym yn gobeithio cyrraedd 10,000 o chwaraewyr pêl droed yng Nghymru erbyn 2010. Felly, yr ydym yn edrych i gynyddu nifer y tîmoedd sydd gennym ac i recriwtio a chefnogi gwirfoddolwyr i'n helpu i redeg y tîmoedd hynny. Yr ydym hefyd yn bwriadu sicrhau ein bod yn parhau i gefnogi chwaraewyr er mwyn cefnogi ein tîmoedd cenedlaethol, fel y dywedais yn gynt.

In terms of where we want to go, very challenging targets have been set in the strategy and we hope to have 10,000 players in Wales by 2010. So, we are looking to increase the number of teams that we have and to recruit and support volunteers to assist us to run those teams. We also intend to ensure that we continue to support players in order to support our national teams, as I said earlier.

[68] O ran sut yr ydym yn bwriadu gwneud hynny, fel mae'r papur yn ei ddweud, mae'r berthynas rhwng y bobl allweddol yn hynod o bwysig. I ni, y bobl allweddol yw'r rhai yn y gymdeithas bêl droed, y cymdeithasau ardal, yr awdurdodau lleol, Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru a

In terms of how we intend to do that, as the paper states, the relationship between the key people is crucial. For us, the key people are those in the football association, the area associations, the local authorities, the Sports Council for Wales and the Welsh Schools Football Association. All of these people are

Chymdeithas Pêl Droed Ysgolion Cymru. Mae'r bobl hyn i gyd yn hynod o bwysig inni, ac felly'r cynghreiriau—hebddynt, ble fyddai'r plant yn chwarae? Hefyd, o fewn hynny, mae'r clybiau'n bwysig inni a chredaf fod y cynllun achredu clybiau ac ysgolion yn mynd i chwarae rhan bwysig wrth ein helpu i sicrhau ein bod yn cyrraedd y targedau sydd wedi'u gosod o fewn y strategaeth.

crucial, as are the leagues—without them, where would the children play? Also, within that, the clubs are important to us and I believe that the accreditation scheme for clubs and schools will play a big and important role in terms of assisting us to meet the targets set in the strategy.

[69] Felly, o ran y gêm i ferched a menywod, mae pethau ar hyn o bryd mewn stâd eithaf iach. Yr ydym yn gobeithio symud ymlaen a gadael i'r gêm gynyddu i'r maint sydd yn bosibl. Mae llawer o botensial o fewn y gêm.

Therefore, in terms of the game for women and girls, things are quite healthy at the moment. We hope to progress and to let the game grow as much as it can. There is much potential within the game.

[70] Diolch am wrando. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf os nad oedd fy nghyflwyniad wedi llifo'n dda, ond yr wyf wedi ceisio ei wneud drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae croeso i chi ofyn cwestiynau.

Thank you for listening. I apologise if my presentation has not flowed very well, but I have tried to do it in Welsh. You are welcome to ask questions.

[71] **Rosemary Butler:** Far from it. You highlighted points that we had all picked up and you flowed very well. All Members want to ask questions. They may address their questions to one group in particular, or it could be generally across the board. That was a really interesting presentation, so thank you very much. Eleanor, do you have a question?

[72] **Eleanor Burnham:** Oh—thank you, Chair.

[73] **Rosemary Butler:** You did indicate. If you are not ready, I will go on to Owen John Thomas.

[74] **Eleanor Burnham:** I can be ready.

[75] You all talk about finance. Has anyone identified how much, if you had a wishlist, you would need and how you would use that? You talk about a strategy, for instance, Debbie, and I could not quite see—and I would just like a clarification from all of you on this—how much you would need, if you had a wishlist.

[76] **Rosemary Butler:** Is that in terms of need or want, Eleanor?

[77] **Eleanor Burnham:** Either.

[78] I am one of these people who prefer to see diagrams. If there was an organisational chart, for instance, Cledwyn, what kind of organisational chart would you like? You mentioned that there were too many activities and too many organisations in what is going on. Perhaps you could clarify what you would prefer to have. If you cannot do it now—you know, I like pictures.

9.40 a.m.

[79] **Mr Ashford:** There is certainly a structure that we would like to see, and a costing as well. My colleagues, David Nickless and Keith James, are more involved in the financial aspects, but I will just return to the fact that, at the moment, we have no finance at all; that is,

it is all self-generated. As you can appreciate, with the type of responsibilities that we have, and the competitions that we run for thousands of children in Wales, that is quite difficult. We certainly could not have carried on with the situation with the national teams without the support of the FAW Trust. However, it is the grass-roots level that worries us, because we have to self-finance. I am not sure whether I am dropping you in it, Mr Nickless, but do you have some figures that we could relate to?

[80] **Mr Nickless:** Yes. If we refer to the 'Future Directions' and the third item there;

'Grant funding for LEA's to allow teachers to be released to accompany... teams to games.'

[81] **Rosemary Butler:** That is on page 12.

[82] **Mr Nickless:** Yes, sorry. It is no. 11.

[83] We estimate that it will cost about £2,000 per unitary authority, because they would need to release about 24 teachers per unitary authority for half a day on each occasion, and that would cost about £40,000 per annum. Grant funding for teachers to support extra curricular activities is, I am afraid, a finger in the wind, depending on various things. However, to take one school, I suppose that we would be talking about £5,000 per annum, so you are talking about colossal sums of money throughout the principality. Under the improvement of playing facilities in schools heading, I would think that you would be talking about £200,000 per annum across Wales.

[84] A lot of good work is done, but this is about the finesse work at the end of it. Maybe we do not get the grass cut sufficiently often, and maybe the fields are not harrowed and rolled, so we end up with very bumpy facilities, which are not conducive to good coaching facilities. On the provision of a grassed coaching area, there are fields adjacent to the Welsh Institute of Sport, but I am afraid that they are in poor condition. Maybe part of that could be hired off to the Welsh Institute of Sport and maintained. I would think that you would be talking about maybe £20,000 to £30,000 per year, but whether there would be a capital cost initially, I do not know, because I do not know what the arrangements would be between Cardiff County Council and the Welsh Institute of Sport, and where the campus boundaries change.

[85] Many of the things in 'Future Directions' will not cost us anything, because they will come under our arrangements with FAW Trust, and we can drive a lot of those forward to the betterment of sport and football in general.

[86] If we come to funding to filter down to the Welsh Schools Football Association, at the moment, the only funding that we get is through our sponsorship deal with one of the national banks to support our inter-school competitions, and that was £15,000 per annum. We are hoping to renew that some time in the next couple of months, but if it fails, then there is obviously a shortfall of £15,000. In the past, we received a grant from the FAW, which amounted to £5,000 to £6,000 per annum, and one from the sports council of £3,000 or £4,000 per annum. We do not get those any more, and that is paid directly into the FAW Trust. So, we are saying that we would be looking for something like £10,000 to help us to build up our grass-roots programme.

[87] **Rosemary Butler:** I think that it might be helpful, if you are happy to do so, were you to send us figures.

[88] **Mr Nickless:** I will make a hard copy and send it to you.

[89] **Rosemary Butler:** That might be very helpful, if it is not too much work. On other

matters, such as coaching areas, we can talk to the Sports Council for Wales about that. We have the Welsh Local Government Association coming to our next evidence session, and an issue that Owen John has already raised is that of the condition of football pitches, so we can ask that of local authorities. However, it would be helpful if you could tell us what kind of funding is needed. You are obviously getting some funding, and it would be helpful for us to know what the FAW Trust has given you. Is that helpful?

[90] **Jamie**, you mentioned the cost of transport, did you not?

[91] **Mr Clewer**: To be honest with you, I think that we would need to do a detailed analysis of that. I would not even put forward a figure today. We really do need to look at and consider that in the longer term. If we could develop competition structures and a player development structure, we need to cost that out and see whether there is an opportunity to help us to fund that. I can understand the issues of the sports council and various other bodies, and that that their concern is the sustainability of that funding once the funding is removed and how an activity is sustained. It is a key issue. However, I feel quite strongly that that should not be a stumbling block to us developing sport as a whole for people with a disability. That is the key area. I certainly would like to do more research into that before I would even suggest a figure.

[92] **Rosemary Butler**: Debbie, do you have any comments?

[93] **Ms Wise**: It is the same in my case; I really would need to look in far more detail before putting a figure on anything. As I said to you when I was talking to the paper, clubs are a crucial part of our game because they provide the exit routes to allow girls to play regular football on a weekly basis within the leagues. That would certainly be an area that we would need to look at in more detail. The same also applies to manpower, in terms of—

[94] **Rosemary Butler**: Not to mention woman power.

[95] **Ms Wise**: Yes, but manpower in terms of personnel to ensure that we can meet the targets that have been set within the strategy.

[96] **Rosemary Butler**: I think that it is obviously a very important issue, but we do not want this report to get bogged down in figures. We will probably ask at the end that more work be done on how these things could be funded, but it is a very important question that Eleanor has asked this morning. Do you want to move on to another point?

[97] **Eleanor Burnham**: Yes. Last night, there was a meeting with Lord Coe and—*[Inaudible]*—about the Olympics—*[Inaudible]*—responsibilities. I asked a question about developing facilities in Wales, and whether that might even have some impact on north Wales, because I think that during the next six years there will be a concentration on Olympic facilities and whatever. My concern would be, perhaps—for instance, with the lottery, Chair—about whether there would be any opportunities during the next six years, when we are concentrating on the Olympics, to ensure that there is further development. I have been asking the Minister several questions about the fact that there is not really an audit of local authority facilities and playing fields, which bothers me. Do you think that we should be having an audit so that we can look closely at each facility that we already have and know exactly how we go from there?

[98] **Ms Wise**: Certainly, there is something else—*[Inaudible]*

[99] **Rosemary Butler**: Sorry; your microphone is not switched on. Could we have the microphones on, please? We cannot hear. Do not touch the microphone as someone will press a button in the booth, I think.

[100] **Eleanor Burnham:** It is a bit like Wimbledon.

[101] **Rosemary Butler:** Can you speak up, Debbie, until the microphone comes on?

[102] **Ms Wise:** Yes, of course. As the game is growing and as we strategically plan for the game to grow, obviously, there will also be more demand on facilities. Girls, as well as boys, are playing. Currently, the boys are playing on a Saturday, and some girls' leagues will play on a Sunday, but there may come a point when facilities may be a major issue in a few years' time.

[103] **Rosemary Butler:** I think that that is a question that will be answered by the WLGA in the next meeting.

[104] **Mr Ashford:** Sorry, Chair—

[105] **Rosemary Butler:** A lot of other people want to ask questions.

[106] **Mr Ashford:** Just to come back, Chair, I would confirm what you have just said. I think that we are indebted to many of the clubs that are very good to us as the Welsh Schools Football Association. They allow us to use their facilities. I can think of a few clubs in mid Wales that are very accommodating to us. However, I have a problem in north Wales; we are very much lacking in terms of national facilities. I know that that is a recognised fact. However, I would second what Debbie said; we are very lucky to have what we have, but it needs to be improved.

[107] **Rosemary Butler:** We want more. Okay; thank you.

[108] **Eleanor Burnham:** Chair—

[109] **Rosemary Butler:** We will come back to you at the end of this item, Eleanor. Do you want to come in, Denise?

[110] **Denise Idris Jones:** Thank you, Debbie, for your presentation. What success has been had in terms of improving girls' participation in football?

[111] **Ms Wise:** I have now been in post for nearly a year. There has been a 300 per cent increase to date. As I say, I have only been in post for a year, so I take no credit for that increase. Currently, there are approximately 3,000 girls playing football, so 300 per cent is a massive increase.

9.50 a.m.

[112] **Denise Idris Jones:** Do we have a national team? I do not know whether we do?

[113] **Ms Wise:** Yes. We have a consistent team, certainly at under-19 level. I think that we are currently ranked ninth by the Union of European Football Associations, which is a pretty good rating.

[114] **Denise Idris Jones:** That is good.

[115] **Rosemary Butler:** That is very good.

[116] **Owen John Thomas:** Hoffwn **Owen John Thomas:** I would like to refer to gyfeirio at 1988 pan gyhoeddwyd y 1988 when the new curriculum was issued.



cwricwlwm newydd. Yr oedd llawer llai o bwyslais ynddo ar weithgareddau y tu allan i'r dosbarth, hynny yw, gweithgareddau y tu allan i oriau'r ysgol, ac yr oedd hynny'n effeithio ar bethau fel chwaraeon, yr Urdd, cerddoriaeth, paratoi ar gyfer cyngherddau, ac yn y blaen. Yr wyf wedi gadael y dosbarth yn awr ers rhyw saith mlynedd, felly nid wyf yn siŵr beth yw'r sefyllfa gyfredol. A yw pethau wedi gwella? A oes mwy o bobl yn mynd allan gyda'u plant ar fore Sadwrn a chyda'r nos i chwarae chwaraeon, oherwydd yr oedd honno'n ergyd fawr yn ôl yn 1988?

[117] **Mr Ashford:** Yr oedd yn ergyd fawr, ac nid ydym wedi dod dros y peth a dweud y gwir. Mae criw da o athrawon ifanc yn dod allan o'r colegau yn awr, ac, yr wythnos hon, bûm yn lwcus i benodi dwy athrawes newydd, sy'n gefnogol iawn o gynnal chwaraeon y tu allan i oriau'r ysgol. I fynd yn ôl at bwynt cynharach, credaf y dylai'r bobl sy'n rhoi o'u hamser gael rhyw fath o dâl—ni fyddai'n swm mawr o arian—i gynnal y gweithgareddau hyn. Mae gennyf athrawon sy'n gwneud cymaint o waith yn yr ysgol, ac, yn y sir, yr ydym yn lwcus dros ben bod gweithgareddau yn cael eu cynnal bob noson o'r wythnos—gan gynnwys pêl-droed, pêl-rwyd, athletau, criced, rownderi, ac yn y blaen. Mae gweithgareddau ardderchog yn digwydd, ac mae'r un peth yn wir am yr Urdd, fel y soniasoch, gan fod y plant yn cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau ar nosweithiau Gwener ac ar ddyddiau Sadwrn.

[118] Mae'r athrawon ifanc sy'n dod allan o'r colegau yn llawn brwdfrydedd, ac maent eisiau cynnal y gweithgareddau y tu allan i oriau'r ysgol. Byddai'n syniad da pe medrem roi rhyw fath o dâl iddynt am wneud y gwaith. Yr ydym ni fel athrawon—fel y gŵyr rhai ohonoch—wastad wedi ei wneud yn rhad ac am ddim, oherwydd yr ydym wedi mwynhau gweithio gyda'r plant. Credaf y byddai'n beth da iddynt, yn dilyn tair blynedd o ddysgu, fagu arbenigedd drwy gynnal gweithgareddau i blant y tu allan i oriau ysgol.

[119] Fel y soniodd Debbie, mae cymaint o ferched yn awr yn chwarae pêl-droed, ac maent wrth eu bodd. Mae dyfodol disglair gydag athrawon yn rhoi o'u hamser, oherwydd y cytundeb pwysau gwaith a'r

There was far less emphasis in it on after-school activities, and that impacted on areas such as sport, the Urdd, music, preparation for concerts, and so on. Having not been a teacher for some seven years, I am not aware of the current situation. Have things improved? Are there more people taking their children out on Saturday mornings and in the evenings to participate in sport, because it was a major blow back in 1988?

**Mr Ashford:** It was a major blow, and we have never really got over that. There is a good crowd of young teachers coming out of the colleges now, and, this week, I have been lucky to appoint two new female teachers who are very supportive of sport outside school hours. To go back to an earlier point, I believe that these people who give of their time should be reimbursed somehow—it would not be a large sum—for participating in these activities. I have teachers who give so much of their time, and, in our county, we are very fortunate that activities are held every night of the week—including football, netball, athletics, cricket, rounders, and so on. There are excellent activities taking place, and the same is true of the Urdd, as you said, as children take part in activities on Friday evenings and Saturdays.

The young teachers coming out of the colleges now are full of enthusiasm, and they want to participate in these after-school activities. It would be a good idea if we were able to give them some reward for doing this work. We, as teachers—as some of you will know—have always given of our time free of charge because we enjoy working with the pupils. It would be beneficial for them, following three years of teaching, to gain expertise by running after-school activities for the children.

As Debbie said, so many girls are now taking part in football, and they are enjoying it immensely. There is a bright future with teachers giving of their time, because of the workload agreement and the planning,

cynllunio, paratoi ac asesu sydd yn awr. Nid wyf yn credu bod athrawon wedi ei chael hi mor dda â hyn, oherwydd y CPA, ac felly maent yn barod i roi eu hamser. Yr ydym yn lwcus i gael yr athrawon hyn yn ein hysgolion, yn enwedig yng Nghymru—nid wyf yn dweud dim yn erbyn Lloegr—lle mae awyrgylch arbennig, gyda'r Urdd, er enghraifft, ac mae'r athrawon yn barod i roi o'u hamser. Gwelwyd hyn yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd, rhyw dair wythnos yn ôl, lle yr oedd cymaint o athrawon wedi peidio â chymryd gwyliau dros yr hanner tymor er mwyn mynd gyda'r plant. Yr ydym yn ffodus iawn yng Nghymru o ran hynny.

[120] **Owen John Thomas:** Rhaid ei bod yn anodd iawn dewis timoedd lle mae plentyn â rhyw fath arbennig o anabledd. Rhaid cymysgu'r plant gyda'i gilydd weithiau, a gall hynny fod yn annheg i un tîm os yw'r rhai sy'n gallu rhedeg yn gyflym mewn un tîm, tra bod plant eraill mewn tîm arall yn gloff, er enghraifft. Mae'n ymddangos yn gymhleth iawn trefnu pethau fel hyn. A fedrwyd esbonio mwy am hynny?

[121] **Mr Clewer:** I did not mention, in terms of the age banding, that we also have ability banding, which is based on A, B and C ability bands. The A band will include the more able, as such—it would be children with more minor disabilities and with higher technical ability. The C band would then include the children with a more profound disability and poor technical skills, or lower ability. It is quite a difficult operation, in terms of classifying children in teams and schools into those ability bands. However, it is certainly something that we are committed to doing because it is important that we do not just cater for those children who have a disability but are more able, but for children who have a more profound disability who want to take part. So, we have ability bands at three levels. Children and teams are classified into the three bands, and they then play within their bands at that level.

[122] **Owen John Thomas:** Mae gennyf gwestiwn i Debbie. Mae'n anodd rhagweld y bydd timau merched y dyfodol yn chwarae yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm gyda 70,000 o bobl yn eu gwyllo. Wedi dweud hynny, o ran tennis, mae merched wedi cyrraedd lefel lle ceir stadiymau sy'n llawn o bobl yn eu gwyllo yn chwarae, ac mae pobl yn eu gwyllo ar y teledu ac yn y blaen. Nid yw hyn yn digwydd gyda phêl-droed, efallai am resymau corfforol. A ydych yn rhagweld y bydd amser pan fydd yn bosibl i ferched lenwi'r stadiymau hyn?

[123] **Ms Wise:** Pam lai? Yn sicr, mae'r gêm wedi datblygu llawer dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Rhan o fy ngwaith yw

preparation and assessment that there is now. I do not think that teachers have ever had it so good, because of the PPA, and, therefore, they are prepared to give of their time. We are lucky to have these teachers in our schools, especially in Wales—I am not saying anything against England—where there is a special ethos, with the Urdd, for example, and teachers are willing to give of their time. You could see this as the Urdd National Eisteddfod, some three weeks ago, where so many teachers had given up their half-term week to accompany their pupils. We are fortunate in Wales in that respect.

**Owen John Thomas:** It must be very difficult to choose teams where a child has a particular form of disability. Sometimes you have to mix children together, which can be unfair for one team if there are some children who are good runners in one team, but there are other children in another team who are lame, for example. It appears to be very complex to organise these things. Could you explain more about that?

**Owen John Thomas:** I have a question for Debbie. It is difficult to envisage future womens' teams playing at the Millennium Stadium with 70,000 people watching them. Having said that, in tennis, women have reached a level whereby stadiums full of people watch them play, and people watch them on the television and so on. That does not happen with football—perhaps that is for physical reasons. Do you see a time when it will be possible for women to fill those stadiums?

**Ms Wise:** Why not? The game has certainly developed a great deal in the last few years. Part of my work is to ensure that the profile

sicrhau bod proffil y gêm yn cynyddu, bod digon o ferched yn chwarae pêl-droed, a bod pobl yn gwybod beth sy'n digwydd yn y gêm. Mae pethau da yn digwydd. Pe gallem godi'r proffil yn fwy, byddai hynny o les i ni hefyd. Efallai bod hynny'n wir nid yn unig am bêl-droed, ond am nifer o bethau.

of the game increases, that enough girls play football, and that people know what is going on in the game. Good things are happening. It would be beneficial if we could raise the profile even further. Perhaps that is not only true of football, but of many other things.

[124] **Owen John Thomas:** Ymhen sawl blwyddyn bydd hynny'n bosibl?

**Owen John Thomas:** In how many years will that be possible?

[125] **Ms Wise:** Yr ydych yn fy rhoi dan bwysau yn awr. Ni hoffwn ddweud yn awr, ond, yn sicr, bydd yn digwydd yn y dyfodol.

**Ms Wise:** You are putting me on the spot now. I would not like to say now, but it will certainly happen in the future.

[126] **Owen John Thomas:** Yn ystod y ganrif hon.

**Owen John Thomas:** During this century.

[127] **Ms Wise:** Yn sicr.

**Ms Wise:** Certainly.

[128] **Rosemary Butler:** They will not only fill the stadium, but they will win, which is the important point.

[129] **Val Lloyd:** I have questions for all of the presenters. I will start with questions to Debbie. In your paper, you talk about the transition from school to club-based football. Does that prove difficult, because I know that there is a tendency for the numbers of people to drop off? At school, the football may be quite well organised, but then they perhaps have to join a club. So, do you have any way of managing that transition? I also wanted to ask about pitches. Do you share those with men's football, or are there dedicated pitches for women? I expect that that would be a bit of a luxury. Shall I ask all of my questions?

[130] **Rosemary Butler:** If they are for Debbie, then ask them all.

[131] **Val Lloyd:** You also, in terms of threats, talked about the relationships that you have with key stakeholders. You see that as a potential threat. Can you elaborate on that? The pressure on volunteers is very real indeed. Everyone agrees that there is a need for child protection and child protection registers, but we live in a society that has moved towards litigation. How much of a difficulty is that? I was struck by and interested in Owen John's last question about the comparability of women in tennis. However, women do not earn as much in tennis, even though they play the same games and attract the same crowds. Do you see that happening when you reach the goal that you talked about with Owen John?

[132] **Ms Wise:** On the first question with regard to transition between schools and clubs, the participation numbers that we have collated have come from the leagues, in terms of registered players. However, having previously been an officer and a teacher, I am aware that there are a number of girls who may play in a school environment, whether on the playground or through after-school clubs with the support of the accreditation scheme. However, we are at the stage at which we need to bridge that gap for them in order for them to make the transition into clubs. I am sure that it is often the same for the boys, in that they will go if their mates will go. If their mates do not go, then they do not make that transition. So, we are trying to utilise the primary schools and the club accreditation schemes to allow that to happen in a natural, sweet, flowing movement. We do not want to make it a big deal for them; we want it to be a club, effectively. Does that make sense? So, we are trying to tackle that predominantly through the accreditation schemes, both club and school.

10.00 a.m.

[133] On question 2 on pitches, yes, we are currently sharing them with men's teams. Speaking from my experience within the senior grass-roots game, if a club is fortunate enough to have two pitches, more often than not, the females will play on the lower standard pitch. That is the reality where the pitch is in poor condition, but beggars cannot be choosers, and if we want to play football, we will play on whatever pitch they can provide for us. To be fair to the clubs, certainly some clubs have taken on board the women's and girls' game and are catering for us, and treating the men's and women's games equally, but there are still many clubs that do not quite see it that way.

[134] On question 3 on the relationships, as far as I am concerned, in the time that I have been in post, everyone whom I have come across in the game has been very supportive and positive. So, currently, that is not a threat because everyone is trying to work together to achieve the same goal. We can only achieve those goals if everyone is prepared to work together and aspire towards the same things.

[135] On question 4 regarding the pressures on volunteers, of course those pressures exist, and I understand the need for Criminal Records Bureau checks, but we are living in a culture where we have to protect the children, as well as the coaches and volunteers who work with the children. So, on the CRB process, many of the girls' clubs and the junior leagues already have club welfare officers in place. So, for the girls' game, it has not been such a shock as it may have been to some of the boys' teams. So, we have not boxed everything off, but we are pretty prepared—they are aware of the situation and the need for everyone to be CRB-checked and to follow all the procedures and the legislation.

[136] On women's football's profile and when we think we will get the same coverage as women's tennis, there was recent coverage of FIFA Women's World Cup. There is far more television coverage of the women's and girls' game today on Sky and the BBC than there has ever been. Personally, I think that it is more of a question of 'when' and not 'if'. We will persevere; we can get there only through perseverance and everyone working together to allow us to reach that stage. To be fair, the seniors have done exceptionally well; they are playing in the World Cup qualifiers. They have done well in their group, so who knows?

[137] **Rosemary Butler:** The interesting point is that it is not just down to television, but also the local printed media. If you look at the sports section of newspapers, they usually contain news of men's sporting activities; they rarely include women. So, we need to continue working on that. In fact, we have raised that issue in this committee before.

[138] Val, can we move on? If you could limit the number of your questions, we will come back at the end, if there is more time.

[139] **Val Lloyd:** I will ask Jamie a quick question and then I will move on to the WSFA. You talked about your promotion when you go to special schools—and perhaps I could have a word with you outside committee on that, because there are a couple of things that I am interested in—but many pupils with disabilities are in mainstream schools rather than special schools, so how do you manage to reach those?

[140] **Mr Clewer:** I mentioned that we had recently not redesigned but amended the McDonald's/FAW Trust primary school accreditation scheme, which is now delivered to—off the top of my head—500 primary schools across Wales. I mentioned that that has to be inclusive of disability, and that includes schools that are not special schools or units. There is now an opportunity for schools to access additional disability-specific equipment to integrate those children into the sessions. We also have many festivals, where, hopefully, our officers will identify children from mainstream schools who can come to those disability festivals and

take part with their peers.

[141] As I mentioned, we now also have a disability workshop; we hope to educate teachers and coaches to be more aware of disability-specific issues, and to integrate those children. In a perfect world, we would love all children with a disability to be integrated into a mainstream structure. It is important that we give all individuals that knowledge of integrating children. So, there is provision there for children in mainstream schools, through the accreditation programme.

[142] **Val Lloyd:** I have a question for whoever wants to answer from the WSFA. I am sorry, but I am not certain of your relationship—formal or informal—to other national bodies. Could you help me on that a little? You mentioned that, financially, there were difficulties, and that you were, in the main, self-funding. Does that come from parents or schools—do parents provide transport? I know that people such as you give of your time freely, but what other aspects of self-funding are there?

[143] **Mr Ashford:** On our relationship between other national bodies, the WSFA is probably the oldest association providing the types of opportunities that we have been giving to children. The relationship prior to the existence of the trust was through the FA—there was a working relationship at that time, but it was limited. The FA could see that we were providing opportunities for children from the age of four, but it was more interested in the categories for the ages from 11 to 16 and to 18, because it could then identify the players.

[144] However, since the trust came into being, we have had a strong relationship with it. Initially, there was some uncertainty about how it was going to proceed, because there were a few changes in the trust—I believe that we have worked with four people in Neil's situation in a matter of four or five years, so there was not much continuity. However, the relationship has grown, and it is very much a partnership of equal partners; it has to be, because the WSFA has much experience, and many organisations within it that have been going for many years. I know that the trust personnel—Neil's colleagues, and so on—are envious of that, because it is a structure that has been in place for many years. The trust has been able to come into that structure, and work within it. So, for instance, we had the regional set-ups before hand, we had the district set-ups, as well as the association set-ups; we also have close relationships with the professional clubs. As you can appreciate, particularly in north Wales, there are about 10 premiership teams within a blanket throw of each other. It was hard work getting them on board to work alongside us, but that has been successful.

[145] So, at present, the agreement between the trust and us is to be reviewed, and a few things need to be ironed out. However, I can see us going forward in that, because it is an important partnership. It is a partnership of trust—not the FAW Trust, but 'trust'. The WSFA and the FAW Trust need to trust each other, and work side by side; there is a future in that. We are very appreciative of Neil's work, and that of his predecessors, in that they have been able to help us financially with running the international sides, of which we are very proud.

[146] On the financial aspects, you are right that so much is asked of parents. I feel proud of the parents of our children—they provide so much for them financially. At the age of 13, children are identified for the national squads, and parents must take them from place to place, perhaps three or four times a term, taking them for get-togethers, training, matches, and so on. They have been fortunate in the last few months, particularly this year, because everything is down in south Wales—mainly because of the Welsh Institute of Sport, and I believe that Neil is the main reason for that, because of his association with the WIS. Therefore, many parents have to spend a lot of money on transport, bed-and-breakfast accommodation, and everything else, which is a financial constraint on them.

[147] However, for us, the parents do not pay anything to the WSFA—that is done via the

schools. The schools affiliate to the WSFA to take part in its competitions; that is how we get the money in. People like me, Dave Nickless and Keith will then stand around doing raffles and draws, and make programmes. When I think back to the years when we used to do our internationals independently of the trust, Mr Nickless and I once raised £9,500 in three international games to give to the WSFA. So, that is the type of thing that we have always done.

10.10 a.m.

[148] We have been very much dependent on affiliation fees from the schools, but the parents do not pay anything towards the cost. However, in the old days, they used to purchase the kit. In fact, they still have to contribute towards the cost of the kit, but they keep it at the end of the season. So, there is a slight financial bias for the parents, but it is mostly from the schools and volunteers.

[149] **Rosemary Butler:** Today is the first time that I have seen you without a raffle book to sell. You will probably sell them at the door on your way out. [*Laughter.*]

[150] **Laura Anne Jones:** We should take this opportunity to congratulate the women's football team on all its successes to date. That has been fantastic, and it has raised the profile of women's football in Wales considerably. For me, it is wonderful to see that women's football is so encouraged now. When I was at comprehensive school not so far away from here, I was not allowed to play football or rugby because I was a girl, which frustrated me a lot, as I am very interested in those sports. So, I am delighted for, if a little jealous of, the girls who can play now. In terms of Owen John's point, are women footballers being paid enough at the top levels for it to be their sole profession? Are there childcare facilities and everything else that is required?

[151] **Ms Wise:** Paid? They do not get paid anything.

[152] **Laura Anne Jones:** So it is a big difference when compared with male footballers. Would you like to see that change?

[153] **Ms Wise:** Oh, that is a tough one. You have put me on the spot. As it stands, perhaps we need to ensure that we are strong, foundation wise, all the way through. I am conscious that we should not run before we can walk. For the future, however, it would be great.

[154] **Laura Anne Jones:** Do you think that it has a lot do with your media profile?

[155] **Ms Wise:** As I highlighted in the paper and reinforced today, when you compare the amount of coverage that women's and girls' sport gets with that of men's sport, you see that ours is minimal. So, more coverage would certainly help us to raise our profile even more.

[156] **Laura Anne Jones:** May I ask Jamie Clewer—

[157] **Rosemary Butler:** If you ask all your questions in one go, we can then go on to the next Member.

[158] **Laura Anne Jones:** Okay. I wanted to ask Mr Clewer about the sustainability of disability football. From what I have seen from going around special schools, and so on, I think that transport is the key to getting them out there to play any type of sport. I have done a lot to recognise the work of the Lord's Taverners association, and many schools have to rely on it to provide the minibuses, trampolines or whatever else, so that those children can play. In this day and age, that is wrong, quite frankly. It should come from the Government, and I hope that it will, eventually. How many staff do you have on the ground who are trained to

coach disability football?

[159] Our Social Justice and Regeneration Committee got me thinking the other day about changing room facilities at football grounds, and so on. Are they adapted for disabled children, and so on?

[160] **Mr Clewer:** Picking up on the point on people who are able to work with disability as such, we have now trained 60 coaches through our coach education programme specifically to deliver on disability. We must not underestimate the work of the Federation of Disability Sport Wales, because it has provided thousands of generic training opportunities to train individuals to work within disability. However, we believe that disability football is no different from mainstream football, and if you have the get up and go to do coaching awards that are mainstream, such as our football leaders and other higher awards, you have the skill and ability to coach children with a disability. That is where our awareness workshop comes in, and our future practical approach is to build on that coaching knowledge to make it specific to disability. I do not particularly feel that it is a separate area as such—anyone who is trained to coach can also work with disabled players.

[161] **Rosemary Butler:** And what about the changing facilities?

[162] **Mr Clewer:** As an organisation, we are keen that we use only suitable facilities; I always make sure that I check a facility before we use it. Generally, the level of facilities is improving, and most sports facilities and leisure centres have what should now be called an accessible toilet, as opposed to a disabled toilet. So, that provision is there as well. A lot of strides forward have been taken on widening access in terms of doorways and lifts. So, it is much better, but there is still a lot of work to be done, particularly in more rural areas, where the public funds are not necessarily available to develop facilities, so those lag slightly behind. However, it is an improving picture.

[163] **Rosemary Butler:** We can take that up with the Welsh Local Government Association when it comes here.

[164] **Laura Anne Jones:** I will move on to my final questions. I noticed in your paper—it is on page 5 of our copies—that, in the future, you would like to see centres of excellence set up in each unitary authority. I just wondered where you saw the funding coming from for that, and also, to sneak in another one, travelling is an issue that has already been mentioned, as well as the costs for parents, which you have just covered, more or less. However, it is a concern of mine across the board that poorer families cannot afford for their children to do a lot of sport. I swam, that was my beef, and my parents had to keep paying out, and it is an expensive business.

[165] **Mr Ashford:** To go back to your first point on the unitary authority set-up, we would like to see something done about fragmentation—and I think that I am right in saying that it is what most people would want to see—because there is too much fragmentation, at the moment, because there is the school situation, the league clubs and the trust and there are Dragon Sports officers and football development officers and so on. It is not uniform throughout Wales. If the situation were uniform throughout Wales, there would be an opportunity to do that, but, if you look at the league system, you will see that there is no uniformity. Mr Nickless did some research the other day, and out of the original Welsh Premier clubs, 19 have now gone and there are new ones instead. You can never know whether a club will be there in two years' time. So you cannot work on the basis of clubs.

[166] However, if you worked on a unitary-authority basis and looked at the 22 unitary authorities, I think that you could set up a satellite-type of situation. Many of our premiership clubs have tried to get satellites in Wales for many years, as you know, but it would be a

satellite in which every stakeholder would be involved. The funding of it has to be shared by all. The problem that we would have, as the WSFA, is that, because we have no money, we could not put anything in, but if we had money then we could become a stakeholder, which we would certainly wish to be, and then we could put in our pennyworth. If you had everyone working together in one unitary authority, all the children would know that it was one area. They would not have to ‘sign’ to a club. These days, unfortunately, as I am sure that you are aware, clubs sign up youngsters, so, if a professional club comes along, it has to pay for them. I am a firm believer that every child should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever it is—hopefully to play for Wales, that is what we want—but the child should not be restricted, because, if children have potential, they should be allowed to move, regardless of what a club wants, when they are aged between six and 13 years. It is getting ridiculous.

[167] So, I would like to see unitary authorities have this satellite, which would be manned by the FAW Trust, school teachers, coaches, Dragon Sport personnel and everyone else who is associated. Children would have access to that. They would, for instance, be able to take advantage of the competitions organisation that is already set up though the Welsh Schools Football Association. Those competitions are already there and the organisation is already there, but instead of Flintshire schools or Wrexham schools, for instance, taking part in that competition, it would be the Wrexham unitary authority satellite. Children would be representing their authority in these competitions.

[168] They would be made up of the trust, the WSFA and leagues, if there are leagues in that area, and anything else. However, if the league in that area dropped out of the Welsh Premier League, it would not stop. If the FAW Trust personnel moved on to better things, it would not stop. If the WSFA personnel went on to become something else, it would not stop, because there would be so many stakeholders. It would not be dependent on one person.

[169] In fact, if you look back over the last 12 years, the only consistent aspect in the international squad has been WSFA involvement, because people move on. I am sure that Neil knows that some of his very good people move on to better things, as is the case in our situation. However, you must have continuity of practice—that is important. That is why I see the unitary authority situation working.

[170] **Rosemary Butler:** It might be helpful if you were to do what Eleanor asked and provide us with a chart—

[171] **Mr Ashford:** I was going to ask, Chair, by when you would like that in.

[172] **Rosemary Butler:** Whenever it is convenient.

[173] **Mr Ashford:** A fortnight?

[174] **Rosemary Butler:** We are going into the autumn, so, a fortnight would be fine. We are now beginning to run rather late, so if you could just finish off.

10.20 a.m.

[175] **Mr Ashford:** I will just answer that last question quickly. I am very aware of the financial implications for parents and we go out of our way on that issue. The Chair is quite right, when I do my little get-togethers with raffle tickets, it is usually to give a parent some money to pay for travel costs. The big issue for me, being a north Walian, is that everything is held down in south Wales. Every time something is on, it is in south Wales. Therefore, for those parents it is a major issue.

[176] **Rosemary Butler:** I think that that point was made earlier. Neil Ward is here, who



has been with us before. Neil, do you want to make some quick comments that would help to clarify the position for the committee before we move on to the staff from the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales?

[177] **Mr Ward:** I have just two points of clarification. On the competition structures and the player development structure, that is something that we are very conscious of. The FAW has charged the trust with looking at this, and a review and working group have been established to look at it, and to consult with key stakeholders and groups to determine what might be the best structure going forward. So that is currently under way and we are aware of it. On disadvantage in terms of travelling arrangements, we have very much benefited in recent years from a logistic disadvantage fund, which is provided by the Sports Council for Wales. Cledwyn might not be aware of this, but all parents of players who are involved in the national development squads receive recompense for the travel costs that they incur in order to attend squad sessions.

[178] **Rosemary Butler:** That is very helpful information. I just want to make one point—

[179] **Eleanor Burnham:** Could we clarify who Mr Ward is?

[180] **Rosemary Butler:** Mr Ward is here from the FAW Trust and he gave evidence to the committee in Swansea. Sorry, it was here that he gave evidence. I apologise; I thought that I had introduced him at the beginning, Eleanor.

[181] **Eleanor Burnham:** I might have missed it, Chair.

[182] **Rosemary Butler:** I do not want to raise the issue now, but perhaps Debbie could let us have a bit more information. Debbie, you included 'inconsistent rules' in your list of weaknesses. I do not want that discussion this morning, but maybe you could prepare a little note on what you meant by 'inconsistent rules'.

[183] We are going to move on now to the staff from the office of the children's commissioner. There has been a little confusion, so they were not here at the beginning of the meeting. That is a bit unfortunate, because it means that they have not heard the discussion. Would it be possible for you to move along a little so that Mr Hosking is not hanging over the end of the table? That would be helpful. Please make your presentation and then we will ask questions. Introduce yourselves, if you would, please.

[184] **Mr Hosking:** I am Peter Hosking, the senior policy officer at the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Gareth Jones is a policy officer. The commissioner has taken quite a large interest in football, partly because we have had consultation events with young people, asking them what our priorities should be for the forthcoming financial year, and play and leisure came out at the top of their concerns, closely followed by education, so we will be consulting further as to how we look into such things in more detail. Also, the commissioner's office runs an advice and support service, whereby young people and concerned adults can phone in and get advice and support. Many of the issues that we are going to be talking about will have come from the concerns that were brought to the office. I suppose that our greatest concern is about child protection in sports in general and, in particular, in football. We recognise that a lot of people work in the Football Association of Wales and I think that it was Huw Jones, the chief executive, who said that we have a large voluntary sector, much of which is untrained and unqualified. We have concerns as to whether the lack of training and qualification extends to child protection procedures.

[185] **Rosemary Butler:** Did you refer to Huw Jones as the chief executive of FAW?

[186] **Mr Hosking:** Sorry; he is the chief executive of the Sports Council for Wales.

[187] We would also note that in the recent safeguarding children review, which was headed up by Gwenda Thomas, one of the recommendations was that the Sports Council for Wales should review its present policy regarding child protection and make grant funding to sports organisations conditional upon child protection procedures and routine Criminal Records Bureau checks being in place. That is our major concern in sports in general, in that there seems to be rather a lack of robust child protection procedures. We have also been approached by many parents and young people and the young people would like to play for a team in a different local authority, which is apparently not allowed, because they might feel that the standards are better in another club. Parents have approached us in much the same respect in that they feel that their children cannot reach their full potential in one club and would prefer to see them playing in another club. As an office, we do not really have a view on this, as it prevents children from having to travel large distances to play football, and that can only be a good thing. However, those are concerns that have been brought to us and we would suggest that children should have a right to choose and should not necessarily be bound by completely artificial boundaries, although we feel that the travelling of hundreds of miles to join a club that is outside of their area is not necessarily a good thing.

[188] Other concerns that have been brought to us by people who work within football are around the fact that children are sometimes seen as commodities and are bound to contracts at a very early age, when, probably, in the courts, they would not be seen to have competence to make that decision, according to what used to be the Gillick competence, which are now called Fraser guidelines. Of course, it is not the children who sign these contracts, but the parents and, unfortunately, we find that parents do not always act in children's best interests. You can imagine a child at a very young age, who shows an aptitude, being bound to a club by a contract and then not being able to move to another club very easily and, yet, at that age, children want to change their minds quite frequently. So, that concern has also been brought to the office.

[189] We have also had concerns that the levels of football in England are better, I suppose, than those in Wales and that drains away a lot of the Welsh talent. So, we would welcome an increase in the standards in Wales, which would allow young people to feel that they were reaching their full potential in football. I am sure that there will now be questions.

[190] **Rosemary Butler:** Yes, well that is why we are all here: to help improve the position in terms of the quality of sport and facilities across Wales. Could you just clarify—as I may have misunderstood—the issue about children having to travel hundreds of miles to join a club? Could you give us a bit more about that one?

[191] **Mr Hosking:** Young people have approached the office saying that they do not want to play for their local club because the standard is not good enough and that they want to play for one some distance away, which means that they often have to do a lot of travelling in order to play, which is stressful. The other issue is that, sometimes, children are pressured into playing for more than one club, because they have a particular aptitude and that, we have been advised, is not necessarily good for them at a time when their bodies are developing, as it can put a lot of physical stress on them and also put emotional stress on them in terms of allegiances to one club and another, which can cause problems. These issues have been brought to the office.

[192] **Rosemary Butler:** I will ask, if Members agree, for comments from the other side of the table. There must be structures to run any sort of football. We had a lot of talk this morning about child protection and there are quite robust procedures in place, so we are very pleased to hear that this morning. Would somebody like to make a comment on this issue about being forced to play for one club when you really want to play for another one?

10.30 a.m.

[193] **Mr Ward:** I would like to comment on that, thank you. It is a difficult issue. Young players register with clubs affiliated to leagues and leagues work to boundary areas. The leagues have tried to put rules in place that prevent other clubs from pooling talent, in other words, identifying better players from other clubs to come to one team so that we have, in effect, a team for which all the best players play. So, there is inappropriate competition. That is why those rules are in place. I am aware of one incident in which there was a difficulty with a player, who could not play with his friends in school because he lived outside the boundary, and that made it difficult for him. That is where, perhaps, some flexibility has to be considered, and what is in the best interests of the young player concerned. However, the rules are set to prevent overzealous members or managers of clubs from identifying the very best players and avoid inappropriate competition with clubs in other areas.

[194] In terms of child protection, I would like to add some confidence about what football is doing in Wales. Through the support of the trust, the FAW has established a welfare and child protection policy in 2002, and was one of the first governing bodies to have such a comprehensive policy established. It has a welfare and child protection department established within the Football Association of Wales, and it has very strong links to Steve Boocock of the NSPCC, so, where cases of child protection emerge, they are very much managed in consultation with the NSPCC.

[195] Previously, all coaches in Wales coming on to the trust coach education courses undertook self-declarations to ensure that they were given the chance to declare any previous convictions that they may have had, and the FAW would then determine whether that prevented them from working with young children. The FAW has now decided that everyone who has substantial contact with children in football will undergo a Criminal Records Bureau declaration, and a licensing process is being established from September, under which all coaches will have to have an identified licence similar to the one that I am wearing now, with their name, qualification and CRB number on it. All that is very much in hand, and we are putting as many robust procedures as we can in place to ensure that the welfare of young players is protected. I congratulate the FAW for taking this matter so seriously.

[196] **Rosemary Butler:** Debbie, you made a point earlier that you already have a person in place.

[197] **Ms Wise:** To be fair, what Neil just said confirms that.

[198] **Mr Ashford:** Certainly, from the schools' perspective, Chair, all personnel undergo enhanced CRB checks, and they have to have those before they can work with any child in the school system, as you know. All WSFA personnel have that.

[199] Going to the situation with regard to travelling to clubs, that is worse for us in north Wales where, for instance, you might have somebody living on the outskirts of Pwllheli who wants to go to Manchester United, or whatever the case may be. The English FA has policies in place, as does the Welsh FA, that restrict travelling, and it is a double-edged sword in that, on the one hand, you have parents who want to take their children to the Manchester Uniteds and the Birminghams or wherever, while, on the other hand, you have them saying that the children are tired when they go to school the next day; that just does not make sense to me. This is a personal statement, and not a statement on behalf of the WSFA; but I do not think that anyone under the age of 10 should be travelling to any of these clubs anyway. Certainly, as I said earlier, they should not have to sign, and then be restricted in movement—that is totally out of order.

[200] However, we do have that problem in north Wales, but some of Neil's personnel, for

instance, work in Gwynedd and they provide excellent coaching. Terry Boyle, who is established in Gwynedd, is one of the finest coaches that I have ever seen, and he is based in Gwynedd. If we had these unitary authority situations in place, they would have quality coaching. They would still, however, want to go to Manchester United, Everton, Liverpool, Birmingham or wherever, because they would get free shirts, boots or whatever. However, I think that it is important that young children below that age should remain in a certain radius—it is scandalous to take them twice or three times a week to play 100 miles away. That is a personal view.

[201] **Mr Nickless:** To elaborate on that, Members may not realise that, for want of a better term, there is a transfer system within professional football clubs called compensation. If a child as young as eight signs for a football club, and is there for four or five years and, on reaching 13, wishes to go to what he or his parents see to be a better football club, and the club that he previously signed for does not wish to release him, the only way for him to go is for the other club to pay compensation or a transfer fee for the work that the first club has done with him for those five years. It could be that a club may not be willing, or may not have the financial power to be able to pay that money for the child to move; so, the child's movement is then restricted. The interesting thing is that once that child reaches 18 years of age and is offered a professional contract by a football club, he can then say, 'I do not want it; I want to go to somewhere else', and no fee will change hands. So, people who are 18 years of age work under entirely different rules to children under 18 years of age. As the gentleman said, I do not think that that would stand up if taken to a court of law, because a minor cannot sign a contract.

[202] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you. That is obviously something that we need to look at further down the line; certainly in terms of advice to parents and pressures on parents. We can have a look at that at a future date. That was very helpful. Do any Members want to make any points? Eleanor?

[203] **Eleanor Burnham:** It seems to me that the issue that Peter Hosking raised about quality—that people sometimes believe or perceive that quality is better in England—is something that we are trying to address through this review. The improvement of standards, generally, and whether or not the facilities, which we have heard of, are up to scratch, is the only long-term issue that we have to address, is it not? Then, everything else will fall into place. I used to deal with truants and miscreants—14 to 16-year-olds—across north-east Wales before I came to the Assembly, and it is just incredible that their only aim in life was to emulate Manchester United or whatever. We have a lot to build in Wales to get rid of the perception that we are not up to scratch. I know that these fine folk, who have been presenting to us, are doing their best. This is why we are here; we are here to try to help.

[204] **Rosemary Butler:** Yes; our idea for doing the review is to have a snapshot in time. We can then look at where the holes are and make recommendations to the Minister or the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, or whomever in the Assembly. Did you want to speak again, Cledwyn?

[205] **Mr Ashford:** Interestingly, Chair, we have the opposite now. At the moment, we have English-born players wanting to play for Wales. In the last four years, I think that we have had seven of what we call 'Anglos' wanting to play for Wales because their parents live in Wales. The success of the last couple of years is down to one or two of those Anglos being particularly good players who have wanted to play for Wales and, in fact, have already played for Wales under 17, 19 and 21 years of age. So, it is nice to have them wanting to come to play for us.

[206] **Rosemary Butler:** We are not going to get into a grannygate situation, are we? *[Laughter.]*

[207] **Mr Ashford:** No—*[Inaudible.]*

[208] **Rosemary Butler:** Do any other Members want to ask questions? No? Thank you, everyone. It has been a very interesting morning. I am sure that Members will want to have an individual chat with you outside; but avoid Cledwyn, because he has his raffle tickets. Thank you very much, Neil, for coming back again. That was very interesting, and thank you for your observations this morning.

*Gohiriwyd y cyfarfod rhwng 10.38 a.m. ac 11.00 a.m.  
The meeting adjourned between 10.38 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.*

### **Adroddiad ar Arddangos Celf yng Nghymru Report on the Display of Art in Wales**

[209] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you very much for coming back so promptly. I am glad that Lisa has made it; I am sorry that you are not feeling too well, but I am sure that you will share your germs generously.

[210] We have an interesting item next, which is the excellent report on the display of art in Wales. It is something that has been mentioned in this committee on a number of occasions. We are pleased to have with us members of the Arts Council of Wales and the National Museum Wales. I welcome Peter Tyndall, David Alston, Michael Houlihan, and Mike Tooby. The Minister has not yet had time to make any decisions with regard to this document, but we thought that it was an opportune point for the members of the committee to hear about progress and the ideas that are coming forward. We then have the opportunity to make observations to the Minister before he makes any final decisions. Minister, would you like to give a brief introduction?

[211] **Alun Pugh:** Thank you, Rosemary, for allowing me to speak first on this important item. I welcome the report by DCA Consultants, which has provided useful information and outlines the various options on how the future display of art in Wales could be taken forward. The report takes account of and builds on work such as the 'Views of the Future' and the Pratley report carried out previously by the National Museum Wales and the Arts Council of Wales. It also addresses one of the Assembly Government's manifesto commitments, namely to examine the potential for a new national gallery of Welsh art. I thank the authors for their hard work and research in compiling the report. They have provided valuable information on how provision in Wales can be improved, potential cultural and economic benefits, and helpful comparisons with other gallery projects in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

[212] The report's key findings make interesting reading. It considers the role of cultural tourism as an economic driver; the question of how to display Welsh art in an international context; the key function of sustainability and education in any project; and the need to develop a network of galleries throughout Wales to complement major projects mentioned in the report. On this last point, I congratulate Amgueddfa Cymru National Museum Wales, the Arts Council of Wales, and the five partner venues for the success of the ArtShare Wales scheme, which is enabling treasures from our national collections to be seen in such diverse venues as Oriel Mostyn, Oriel Davies Gallery in Newtown, the Ruthin Craft Centre, Bodelwyddan Castle, and the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea.

[213] However, Members will realise that this is the first step in a long process. Any decision to proceed with a national gallery for Wales will have major policy and financial implications. There would be substantial initial capital implications and then significant ongoing revenue implications. This report does not address issues such as location, or detailed

costings. Much further work is needed on these aspects, and I look forward to discussing these matters in detail with the national museum and the arts council. The project represents a major capital and revenue investment, and, in examining these proposals, the Assembly Government must pay full regard to the Assembly Audit Committee's recent report on the funding for the National Botanic Garden of Wales. I recently laid the Government's response to this report accepting the committee's recommendations. In considering the proposals for such a national gallery, we must implement the committee's recommendations, which include matters such as the intelligent use of sensitivity analysis, contingency planning, and a robust analysis of the business plan. I can certainly assure the committee that, before any decision is taken to proceed, we will carry out an option and investment appraisal using robust scenario planning. We will also carry out a robust risk analysis, which will involve discussions with key stakeholders.

[214] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you, Minister. I accept all the terms that you have used about audit and robustness. However, this morning is to be a joyous occasion; we are talking about how we will present the wonderful art of Wales to the people at some point. That is your job, Minister; our job this morning is to fly. So, I ask our illustrious team to start off. Who is presenting first?

[215] **Mr Houlihan:** We are piloting this particular presentation as a job-share, so, beware. To give you some headlines in relation to the projects, the report was commissioned jointly by the Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales. It is essentially an independent report carried out by David Clark Associates, supported by Peter Jenkinson. David Clark is an independent consultant and has worked on many projects, nationally and internationally, so, he is familiar with the field of art and the display of art. Peter Jenkinson has had very hands-on experience, and was essentially the creator and director of the New Art Gallery Walsall. So, we are very much looking at things from an on-the-ground perspective. It brings together two important areas of experience, in terms of presenting a report that is practical.

[216] As the Minister has pointed out, it builds on quite a number of years of previous consultation, starting with the Pratley report, and the whole consultation process that ran from 2002–03, which resulted in 'Views of the Future'. We essentially at NMW took that document and the consultation process as its starting point. From the museum's point of view, we welcome that this has given a much sharper focus and direction to the future debate about the display of art in Wales. In a sense, if we leap to the conclusion, there are two key planks—

[217] **Rosemary Butler:** That is a short report, is it not? [*Laughter.*]

[218] **Mr Houlihan:** I will cut out the intermediary stuff. There are two essential recommendations in the report. The first is on the need for a national gallery of art. That is a reflection of the need for a space to display the existing art collections, and future art collections, bearing in mind that the museum is in a continuous dynamic process of collecting for the future. Secondly, the report recognises the need for a contemporary art space—and Peter will speak to this—that is not based on existing collections, but is there to reflect existing artistic practice in Wales, and to act as a stimulus to the creation of art and the generation of young artists in Wales. So, there are two components to this report.

[219] The report focuses on a number of important thematic areas and values-based areas. So, it addresses the issues of education, and what art can deliver in that context, and it broadly addresses some economic issues, particularly through the modelling of international best practice. It is important for us to bear in mind that we are trying to step up our game, and that we want to see ourselves as a country that works on an international status in terms of how we present art, and the quality of the collections that we present. So, that sort of internationalism

is part of the report.

[220] Another important area that it addresses is the economics of what can be delivered, not only in terms of economic benefits, but in terms of slightly more spiritual areas, which are fundamentally important, in terms of representing the identity of a nation and reflecting the cultural dynamic of a nation. The examples that have been chosen illustrate how many small nations have at their heart not only a strong national and internationally based collection, but a desire to stimulate contemporary art practice within the country. Those are some of the key reflectors that emerge from this report that focus in particular on the sort of issues that we should be discussing nationally.

[221] I will pick up on the museum-based issue, which is the creation of a national gallery of art. I think that the report—if we needed confirmation of this—makes the statement that it is ‘a legitimate aspiration for Wales’. We do not have anything that can be identified as a free-standing national gallery of art. I will come back to this issue, in terms of some of the work that the museum is doing. The report is clear in saying that any development of a national gallery of art should take account of the existing status of the collections, which, of course, have an international perspective, and not only reflect the art of Wales, but the way in which people in Wales have collected art and sought to inspire, through those collections, young artists coming through in Wales. So, there is that notion that our collections are international, but that we should be seeking, as an institution, to bring a particular Welsh perspective to that. We cannot collect everything; no museum collects everything. Our task is to reflect that Welsh perspective.

11.10 a.m.

[222] The report also addresses some of the significant gaps in current provision, both in terms of exhibition space for the permanent collections, and in terms of the spaces that are needed for growing our collections into the future and seeking to strengthen our collections in a variety of ways, in particular, temporary exhibitions, and how, as an institution, we can start to rotate our collections. We will never have enough space to display all of our collections at one time, but it is a perfectly legitimate aspiration—and many art museums are now going through this, by rehangng and reinterpreting their collections—and I think that this is certainly a way forward. So, again, we need the spaces to be able to do that, with a core of more permanent-type displays.

[223] Not only do we want to reflect the core of what we have, but where we might go in the future. Bear in mind that we always collect one item from the Artes Mundi exhibition, following its bi-annual showing. So, collecting contemporary art and having sufficient space for that is very much a part of what we see as the role of the national gallery in the future. It is not something on which we are really delivering at the present time.

[224] Looking at some further aspects, what I would like to do now is to set out some of the context of what we are trying to do, which I explained to committee, you may recall, last November. The museum’s priorities at the present time are concerned with the stewardship and care of the collections. We are currently, thanks to funding from the Welsh Assembly Government, spending something like £3 million on repairing the roofs of the Cathays park site. So, our key priorities are stewardship and care of the collections, in terms of making sure that those collections are preserved for the future.

[225] Our second priority, which takes us through from 2008 to about 2012, is the development of the St Fagans site to be able to tell the story of the people of Wales and the history of the peoples of Wales, in terms of its civic, national and political history. It is a very important task. One of the fallouts from that—and I will come back to this in a little more detail—is essentially the division of the existing Cathays park site into, initially, a museum of

art on the upper floor and a natural sciences museum on the lower floor. We then see ourselves turning our focus towards the realisation—in an ideal world, during the period 2015-20—of seeing the national gallery being developed. The recommendation in here—and it would certainly be the museum’s preferred option—is to see an extension on the existing Cathays park site. You may say that 2012 and 2015 are a long way off, but if you think of the recently opened National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, it took 12 years for that to be built, from the start through to the opening. If we just add 12 years to 2006, we are already at 2018.

[226] So, there is a task to be done, in terms of maintaining the momentum that has been built through the various reports and studies, and keeping that momentum moving. We see the next step as being concerned with examining in detail and robustly testing some of the conclusions that we are being guided towards in this particular report. That would, therefore, mean an option appraisal, a feasibility study and that type of work, so that you have a much clearer picture in a year to 18 months’ time of what these various proposals would look like. That would keep the momentum and keep us on track for that sort of timescale.

[227] In the meantime, in addition to mobilising that sort of work, which includes a feasibility study, there is clearly the work that the museum is doing in terms of its partnerships across Wales with museums, and art galleries in particular. These partnerships are designed to ensure that the collections are being shown across Wales. There is also the work that we are currently doing, and which we would hope to complete in 2008, on developing the upper floor of Cathays park as a national museum of art—and I use that term to distinguish it from a national gallery of art, which is a much larger project. That work would give us 40 per cent more space for the display of art. So, between 2008 and whenever we can realise this project, we would have more space. Inevitably, I would argue that that is not sufficient, because it does not give us the temporary exhibition space, but it does ensure some kind of increase there. So, we estimate that, over the next few years, we will invest about £6 million in terms of partnerships and the development of the Cathays park site.

[228] We have a longer-term issue about building capacity, which is pointed out in the report. You can have glitzy buildings and exhibition spaces, but the aspect that sets a national museum or a national gallery of art apart from glitz is the depth of its curatorial knowledge. The displays are only as good as the expertise of the staff, and we do not have sufficient curatorial staff at present. We would need to build that type of capacity, and that is pointed out in the report. In my view, we have time to do that, but we need to start building it now, and the museum recognises that as a key priority in terms of looking at its staff within the institution.

[229] So, there are steps that we can start to take in terms of building this type of capacity, and, through the development of the upper floor at Cathays park, we can demonstrate, in many respects, the real need for a national gallery of art, which will enable us to show temporary shows, to rotate the collections, and to say that there is something special about the collections in Wales, so that someone living in Bâle will get on a plane and come here to see them. That is how we see the future, but I hope that that is helpful in terms of setting the institutional context for the museum. I will now hand over to Peter.

[230] **Mr Tyndall:** Thank you, Mike. Mike mentioned the network of galleries around Wales, which is something that this committee has looked at in the past. The report strongly endorses it. The Arts Council of Wales commissioned a report from David Pratley Associates, which was published in 2001. It set out the sense that, for the display of contemporary art in Wales, there should be two tiers for which the Arts Council of Wales should take overall responsibility. One of them is the creation of a tier of regional galleries that are either newly built or adapted to a high standard, which are sufficiently well resourced to enable them to manage the type of curatorial standards to which Mike has referred in respect of the museum. At that point, we identified a series of developments that have been proceeding in the interim.



Some of them are complete, such as Aberystwyth Arts Centre and Oriel Davies. Oriel Mostyn and Ruthin Craft Centre Gallery are due to go on-site shortly. In south-west Wales, the proposals are moving forward at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery and we would expect to see it on-site in the not too distant future. There are more modest proposals for Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff, and there is also the new development of the national Ffotogallery as part of the redevelopment of Margam park in Neath Port Talbot. So, you can see a chain or a network of regional galleries covering the whole of Wales, and also giving some coverage to the various aspects of the visual arts, including applied arts in the case of Ruthin, and lens-based arts in the case of Ffotogallery.

[231] That investment has been a mixture. The capital investment, between what has already been spent and what has been committed, stands at some £9.7 million of predominantly lottery funding, in terms of bringing the facilities up to an acceptable standard. The revenue funding has come from the Welsh Assembly Government, which has underpinned those galleries and which does and will enable them to function effectively into the future. As Mike mentioned, it has enabled those galleries to enter into partnerships with the national museum. For instance, we have recently seen Oriel Davies hosting part of the Davies sisters' bequest in Newtown. Those are the types of possibilities that you can see for that regional network, working in partnership with the museum, while also enabling the display of contemporary art. The previous exhibition at Oriel Davies was drawn from the Welsh presence at the Venice Biennale, so we have created that regional network.

11.20 a.m.

[232] The other element envisaged by David Pratley was that Wales should have a national centre for contemporary art to complement a national gallery for art. He drew the distinction, and it is endorsed in this report, because of the different needs in the display of contemporary arts. So, the discussion is not of a collections-based gallery. It is difficult to find an example. I do not want to suggest that Wales would have something of this scale or a building such as this available, but if you take the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead for example, you have the sense of a gallery that can take contemporary art, which is often on a larger scale than is compatible with the kind of historic building that we see in Cathays park, and which has touring exhibitions, as opposed to a collection. That would be a model that most, if not all, committee members would be familiar with. In Wales, it may not be on that scale; the chances of us finding a very attractive flour mill that no-one happens to have redeveloped seem to be quite slight, but we can still think about either a new building or something converted.

[233] That comes down to the point about providing space for Wales to engage internationally. We have moved that forward with Artes Mundi and the Venice Biennale in recent years, but, through Wales Arts International, we have been holding exhibitions, in Estonia, for example, where there is no venue in Wales capable of hosting those exhibitions of Welsh artists. That is what we think is needed here to enable us to take our place on the international stage. There is more than one possible location. There is no existing facility on which this would be based, so there is the possibility of more than one location. The report explores that in some detail and it seems clear that there are a couple of issues that would need to be taken into account in determining a location. Clearly, the availability of an audience will mean that transport links and location will have to be taken into account; it needs to attract a large international audience. There is also the availability of partners—you could envisage a wide variety of potential partners for this kind of development. Universities and local authorities would be prime examples. So, in the sense of where it might be, should it be developed, that matter would be determined depending on the availability of the partnership and what the detailed investigation of particular locations revealed.

[234] Just to conclude, to allow some time for discussion, the point that is made about the

need to invest in curatorial skills in the national gallery, and the development in Amgueddfa Cymru leading to the national gallery, is equally true of the network of regional galleries around Wales and will be true of the need for a new national gallery for contemporary art. If that is to happen, it will be necessary for us to develop a generation of curators able to drive that forwards. We are seeing some of that development happen now, with Welsh-based curators taking on the role of, for example, the curation of the Venice Biennale. There needs to be that work to develop a tranche of skilled and capable individuals to drive these visions forward.

[235] The issue of education and access is fundamental. It is not sufficient to create a space or just to hang the work; it is essential that we reach out to the communities of Wales, that there is investment in education facilities and in the people at all of our gallery spaces, if we are to get the kind of results that the museum achieved with Artes Mundi, and which galleries like Oriol Davies achieved with their extended education programme. So, this is not for people who just happen to come by or just for cultural tourism; this should engage communities across Wales.

[236] I have already mentioned partnership, but there are some fundamental key partnerships that underpin all of these: partnerships with the existing galleries, with the museum and, potentially, with local authorities, all of which will enable this to develop and to thrive.

[237] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you. That was a very interesting presentation. The point that you made on partnerships, developing and missionary working applies equally to regional theatres. We have built all the regional theatres, but we now need staff and good productions staged there. So, it is the same principle; you cannot have a building without the staff. Who will start off? How about Owen John?

[238] **Owen John Thomas:** Cefais yr adroddiad llawn yn hwyr neithiwr cyn gadael y Cynulliad, er nad ydyw gennyf ar hyn o bryd, ac ynddo, mae mapiau o Gymru yn dangos dalgylchoedd posibl ar gyfer canolfannau a allant fod yn gartref i oriel—nid i oriel genedlaethol, efallai, ond oriel ranbarthol. Mae'n cynnwys lleoedd fel Wrecsam, ac mae'n dangos y dalgylch sy'n cynnwys mannau fel Lerpwl ac ati, sydd â 3 miliwn o ymwelwyr posibl. Fel y bu ichi ddweud, mae'n bwysig cael cynulleidfa, boed i ganolfan celf cyfoes neu i Amgueddfa Cymru ei hunan. A ydych yn ystyried lleoedd fel Wrecsam, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Caerfyrddin, Casnewydd, Abertawe—nid wyf yn eu cofio i gyd—a Chaerdydd, wrth gwrs, fel rhwydwaith o leoedd a allai dderbyn celf, ei symud o gwmpas, a chynnal arddangosfeydd ac ati? A oes rhywbeth arbennig am y mannau hyn? Yr ydych hefyd yn sôn am Ruthun a Mostyn, sy'n iawn ond yn fach. Yr wyf yn drysu ychydig ynglŷn â'r syniad.

**Owen John Thomas:** I received the full report late last night before leaving the Assembly, though I do not have it with me at the moment, and, in it, there are maps of Wales showing possible catchment areas for centres that could house a gallery—not a national gallery, perhaps, but a regional gallery. It included places such as Wrexham, and showed the catchment area that would include areas such as Liverpool, which would bring 3 million potential visitors. As you said, it is important to ensure that there is an audience, whether that is for a contemporary art centre or for National Museum Wales itself. Are you considering places such as Wrexham, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Newport, Swansea—I do not remember them all—and Cardiff, of course, as a network of areas that could receive the artwork and move it around, housing exhibitions and so on? Is there something special about these places? You also mentioned Ruthin and Mostyn, which are all right, but small. I am a little confused about the idea.

[239] **Mr Tyndall:** The maps in the report are designed primarily to look at where a centre

for contemporary art might be developed. It looks at the potential audiences for that and includes, as you say, Wrexham, Cardiff, Newport, and so on. The likelihood is that a national centre for contemporary art will need access to a large audience; that is the contention in the report. Where it would eventually go, if the decision is made to proceed, will rely on a detailed feasibility study where all of those matters are taken into account. There is no proposal to extend the current network of regional galleries; the proposal is to finish developing the current network, so that those locations are identified, and that the new space should complement the existing network. Those were the ones that I addressed in my presentation.

[240] **Owen John Thomas:** Mae rhai pobl yn teimlo bod angen canolfannau datblygu yng Nghymru. Hynny yw, gallech ddatblygu lle fel Bangor ar gyfer gogledd-orllewin Cymru a lle fel Wrecsam yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru ac ati drwy Gymru gyfan, fel bod pawb yn byw yn agos at rywle gyda thipyn o boblogaeth, swyddi o ansawdd uchel, ac adnoddau fel canolfannau celfyddydau, amgueddfeydd, mannau hamdden, theatrau ac yn y blaen. Fodd bynnag, os ydych yn symud oddi wrth y syniad hwnnw, yr hyn sydd ar ôl yw nifer fychan o leoedd wedi'u dosbarthu'n eang yn lle datblygu rhywle arbennig yn y gogledd orllewin, yn y dwyrain ac ati. Credaf fod hynny'n cyfrannu at y syniad o ddatblygu economïau rhanbarthol hefyd. Fel y dywedais, os ydych yn dosbarthu pethau yn rhy eang, ni chewch y cryfder i gadw'r boblogaeth. Mae pobl ifanc yn gadael Cymru; nid ydynt am fyw mewn mannau lle nad oes theatrau neu sinemâu sy'n dangos 15 ffilm i'w mynychu ac yn y blaen. Teimlaf fod hyn yn bwysig a'i fod y tu hwnt i fyd diwylliant, efallai.

**Owen John Thomas:** Some people feel that there is a need for development centres in Wales. That is, you could develop areas such as Bangor in the north west, and somewhere such as Wrexham in the north east and so on, throughout the whole of Wales, so that everyone would be living near somewhere with a sizeable population, good-quality jobs, facilities such as arts centres, museums, leisure facilities, theatres and so on. However, if you are going to move away from that idea, you will be left with a number of small places spread over a wide area, instead of developing somewhere specialised in the north west, in the east and so on. I believe that that contributes towards the idea of developing regional economies, too. As I said, if you distribute things too widely, you will not have the strength to keep the population. Young people are leaving Wales; they do not want to live in areas where there are no theatres to go to or no cinemas showing 15 films and so on. I feel that this is important, and it may even go beyond the cultural world.

11.30 a.m.

[241] **Mr Tooby:** You are making some important points. When Peter says that we want to test the next steps, it is essential that, in flying and taking off with the idea, we do not compromise the potential of the range of fantastic venues that we are already beginning to work with. So, some of the things that we would test would be the relationship between a developing and a developed network, between different communities around Wales, and the international reach of any new development. What would that complementary network and economy be? Crucially, as we are working with the network, we also want to recognise the individual identities of those venues and their relationships with the audiences that they already work with. We have already been testing this in Cyfoeth Cymru Gyfan. We do not tell Ruthin Craft Centre that we know best how to relate to the audiences of north-east Wales, Merseyside and Greater Manchester. We do not know best how to use the applied arts in that way. It works with us in collaborative ways to make the potential work best; we are not trying to develop an imperialist, centre-out thing from Cardiff.

[242] In taking on board your comments, those issues about the relationship between the individual centres of the network, new investment and specific audiences are absolutely at the

heart of what we would want to test. We are getting a lot of fantastic experience coming through in the way in which our pilot schemes have been working. Peter has mentioned how the Davies collection has gone on display in Newtown. That is, in part, because Newtown said to us, 'We are working very well around the contemporary; where you can bring something additional to us is in the gravitas of the historic'. That is quite different from Oriol Mostyn, which said, 'Our audiences want to build on contemporary art and on the way in which contemporary artists see your collection'. So, it undertook a project around artists based in Wales making their own takes—including mickey-takes—on the historic perspective. That individuality and complementary dimension is what we want to take forward. I do not know whether I have answered your question.

[243] **Owen John Thomas:** A gaf i ofyn **Owen John Thomas:** Can I ask just one un cwestiwn bach? small question?

[244] **Rosemary Butler:** Just a small question, because there are a lot of people to go round.

[245] **Owen John Thomas:** Derbynïaf ei bod hi'n bwysig bod lleoedd ar gael sy'n llai na'r canolfannau y cyfeiriais atynt, lle gallwch fynd â'r arddangosfeydd—hynny yw, lleoedd fel Mostyn, y Drenewydd a Rhuthun ac ati. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig hefyd i ddatblygu canolfannau o boblogaeth lle mae màs critigol yn datblygu, neu rywbeth yn agos ato. Os ydych yn methu â'u cael i gyd yn y gogledd ddwyrain, byddwch yn mynd y tu allan a sicrhau bod Lerpwl yn gwybod am fodolaeth y lle hefyd. Mae'n bwysig bod y pethau hyn yn cyd-fynd ac nad ydym yn datblygu lleoedd fel hyn heb ystyried y rheidrwydd o gael canolfannau sy'n dal pobl sydd yng Nghymru, ac sy'n denu pobl â sgiliau i Gymru.

**Owen John Thomas:** I appreciate that it is important that we have smaller venues than the centres that I mentioned, where you can take exhibitions—that is, places such as Mostyn, Newtown and Ruthin and so on. However, it is also important to develop centres of population, where there is a critical mass developing, or something similar to that. That is, if you cannot get them all in the north east, you would go outside and ensure that people in Liverpool know of the existence of this venue too. It is important that these things complement each other and that we do not develop venues without considering the need for such centres to hang on to people who are in Wales, and to attract skilled people to Wales.

[246] **Rosemary Butler:** That is an observation that we can take into the report. I do not think that you can necessarily come back on that this morning, but we will ensure that that is considered in the future.

[247] **Lisa Francis:** It is an interesting idea for the top floor of Cathays park to be turned into the national museum of art until such time as you can progress it into what may perhaps be a stand-alone building that would be the national gallery of art. You mentioned that you plan to invest £6 million over the next four years into that project. I just wondered how you anticipated developing curatorial skills. You are quite right, and I know that you have presented to us before about the need to have a generation of those skills, and the fact that there is a problem when people move away, as we do not have those skills here in Wales. How were you thinking of furthering that particular side of things?

[248] Peter, when you spoke about the network of galleries around Wales, you mentioned that there is capital funding of £9.7 million available from the lottery, and that revenue funding was available from the Welsh Assembly Government. How much was that and how did you pan that out over time? Was there a shortage? How did the particular stream of funding work out?

[249] On the point that you made about the need to engage with educational groups and to

have partnership engagement with local authorities, how do you see that particular work progressing? From my experience of visiting local authorities—there are six in the region that I deal with—not many have any kind of art displayed in their buildings. It might be rather difficult to persuade them to do that. How do you anticipate that you will move forward with that?

[250] I have a final question to the Minister. In your opening remarks, Minister, you talked about the national botanic garden. I am not sure whether I understood you, but you said that there were recommendations that would need to be carried out. Will you reiterate the link between that and what we are talking about now?

[251] **Mr Houlihan:** I will take the first question in relation to staffing and building curatorial capacity. We have already taken a number of steps in relation to this. The first is that we are currently engaged in an exercise called vision-based budgeting, which is perhaps better known as zero-based budgeting, where we are looking at our internal resources and how we handle them. We have already identified that there is a need to build capacity within our art segment of the museum, so we are looking at how we can take some of our existing funds through staff retirements and staff leaving from other areas of the museum, and move that money over towards building the curatorial expertise that we are talking about here. That is one step, but it is not the entire answer.

[252] The second step that we have taken is that the museum has set up a development committee, made up of people of influence, who will, hopefully, get some money for us. Principally, they will look at the St Fagans' project, but there is considerable interest among members of that group in the whole question of art. So, we see ourselves looking at external sponsorship, potentially, for the posts—this is not unknown in the field of museums—and trying to fill certain gaps in that way.

[253] The third step that we will look at is in relation to partnerships, which is an issue that we keep coming back to. Projects of this scale will not happen without partnerships, and we will look at building partnerships with universities to see whether there are ways in which we can develop links through their fine art courses, and so on. In terms of some of the current work that is happening in relation to knowledge-transfer partnerships, we are looking to see whether there are ways in which we can get skills and expertise from universities to boost the expertise side of the museum. So, we are trying to be quite imaginative and using lateral thinking to try to ensure that this happens.

[254] There is also a profile-raising issue here, because we want to attract the best curators that we can. In some senses, curators will go anywhere to work with great collections. We have great collections, so we can attract the best, but we must get the resources in place.

[255] **Mr Tyndall:** On how much more revenue is needed, we have a minimum figure that is needed to accommodate the current changes and developments within the existing set of galleries, and that is £200,000. We are looking to achieve that through active management of the portfolio or refocusing resources, or whichever other term meaning to take it from someone else that you care to use. We realise that in order to enable the new facilities to operate, they will need that additional investment. If you were to extend that to enable the extent of education activity and curatorial development that we would like, it would probably be at least that much again.

[256] On the issue of partnership with local authorities, it is very variable, and I can think of a local authority headquarters built not so long ago that does not have a single piece of public art outside or within it. It is almost unimaginable that you would build a public building and not do that, but there we are. Several authorities are actively interested in the display of art.

11.40 a.m.

[257] Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has been a hugely active partner in the development of Ffotogallery, and it is looking to devote some of the income streams from Margam park to sustain that development when it opens. Similarly, there are local authorities that are very actively interested in hosting a national centre for contemporary art, should one come about, and which are prepared to look actively at finding sites and supporting it in all kinds of other ways. So, as you would expect, some authorities are very actively engaged in this and others are not. I think the secret for us will be to ensure that we take advantage of those who have an interest while trying to promote to the others the benefits of being involved with the arts.

[258] **Rosemary Butler:** Minister, would you like to make a comment?

[259] **Alun Pugh:** Members will recall that the Assembly's Audit Committee has investigated and reported on the setting up of the national botanic garden and the Government has accepted the lessons learned from that project and the committee's response. In considering future large capital projects, those recommendations, which include sensitivity analysis, contingency planning and what measures will be taken if the business plan assumptions are not met, will be fully built into general capital expenditure projects of this sort.

[260] **Eleanor Burnham:** I believe that you are developing a wonderful future for us in Wales, which is most commendable, but at a time when the public's perception is that we should be spending all this money on health, education and hip operations, how do we genuinely convince not just the public, but aspects of the media that are very hostile to anything arty-farty? For example, with regard to local authority buildings, there was a huge hue and cry when Denbighshire had a fantastic apple in the middle of its courtyard. How do we ensure that the public realises the real worth of your wonderful work? That is only one question.

[261] **Rosemary Butler:** We cannot go into that today, because it is such a long debate.

[262] **Eleanor Burnham:** My other point was on networks. What you do is commendable, but like Owen John, I am concerned in a political field that perhaps we should be engaging with others. I will be parochial, because we are in north Wales, and suggest that we should be engaging with the University of Wales, Bangor and the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education, because, again, there is an issue about how much money we are spending in Cardiff. Should we not be doing more to engage Bangor university and NEWI or do you have that in mind anyway?

[263] The other issue that has not been addressed, and I wonder what your views are on this, is business partnerships. I am sure that you have got them going. We do not, by national inclination, have huge resources through businesses like the US or whatever, so, how do you ensure that even the smallest of businesses are engaging in the arts field?

[264] Finally, on education and school involvement, I know, for example, that when the exhibition was in Wrexham last year, it was very well attended. Is that how you see the future of curatorial development, because people are coming through your wonderful displays that are now available?

[265] **Rosemary Butler:** Please answer briefly, as we have more questions to come.

[266] **Mr Houlihan:** Taking your questions in reverse, in terms of the ones I can address,

on education, the museum's vision is to create a world-class museum of learning. That is what we are trying to do over the next 20 years. That involves putting learning at the very centre of what we are trying to do. Those are all very fine words, of course, but you have to do it. We have already embarked on that. We recently launched our new learning and access policy. It is a cultural-change issue for the institution. We are an educational charity, but we educate in a special way, through our collections. Initially, it is about making all of the staff realise that, no matter what job they have in the institution, they are in the job of education. We are all there to educate, so, I will certainly reassure you that we see education as being right at the centre of what we do and developments and new technologies—some of the things that we have seen at Swansea, for example—are very much about delivering education on the front line. The minute that someone walks into a building, staff should be engaging with them and that person should be learning. We are already looking at how we can measure those sorts of educational outputs. There are issues about whether it is about how many visitors you get through the door or what the visitors take away with them in terms of a learning experience, so those are issues that we are very actively pursuing. That is very much what we are trying to do. I think that the other issue was on networks.

[267] **Mr Tyndall:** I will just pick up on the Bangor issue, because it has come up several times. We are in very active discussions with the university in Bangor about the redevelopment of Theatr Gwynedd as a major re-provision there. There is a whole load of reasons why that needs to be done urgently. The story about Wrexham and the difficulties there is probably well known to committee members and I will not labour the point now, but the lack of investment was probably among the prime reasons for that, but we do have ongoing contact with NEWI. In terms of business partnerships, in a sense, the museum has ongoing contact in respect of the acquisition of work, and I think some of that was referred to earlier. We are also very active in seeking to gain business participation. I guess, in the visual arts, the contribution of the Principality Building Society to Collectorplan is a very good example of how we have brought business into this sphere. We are looking to develop the extent to which businesses in Wales contribute to the arts, particularly in capital projects, but the point implied in the question is that we do not have many corporate headquarters in Wales, so the extent of corporate giving is inevitably going to fall behind what is achievable, for instance, in the south-east of England.

[268] **Mr Houlihan:** To pick up on that particular point as well, we are conscious of the difficulties that we face in terms of raising that sort of business sponsorship, and, in some senses, we must take the campaign to London, in terms of raising the profile of our collections in London. I think that is a very important issue, which partly comes back to the previous point about economic arguments and so on. It is about profile-raising and about trying to get an argument across about the importance of culture in economic terms, health terms, spiritual terms or whatever. There are a lot of really useful arguments that we can deploy.

[269] **Mr Alston:** Just to stay in north Wales for the moment, Galeri in Caernarfon is clearly a very interesting model. It is a model from the point of view of engaging people through their business lives in the facilities that sit alongside the arts facilities. It engages a whole new populace as a way of meeting, of discussing, a thoroughfare, and of bumping into people. That has to be the way in which arts facilities go; that is where engagement comes from. Galeri came out of a long process of community development in many ways.

[270] **Mr Tooby:** I will just add a footnote to that comment. You will know of the show that we launched in Ruthin. In a sense, one of the things that we were trying to promote there was the concept of the creators of the material as small businesses in their own right. That was a kind of subtext to that show, because we tried to emphasise purchasing and commissioning in the exhibits themselves and demonstrate how supporting small production facilities like potters, craft operators, as well as artists, in itself generates business activity in

small communities. That was an important message in that show.

[271] **Denise Idris Jones:** I am sure that you will ensure that a national gallery will boost other regional galleries around Wales. For example, in my area, Oriel Mostyn in Llandudno has just received a huge lottery grant. As the main industry of that area is tourism, that brings in people from outside of Wales to look at Welsh artists—Martin Barlow is absolutely delighted. How have you looked at planned infrastructure development rather than just current infrastructure in establishing a national gallery and an axis across Wales?

[272] **Mr Tyndall:** For us, a centre for contemporary arts is the culmination of a process of development that stretches back over six years from Aberystwyth, which is probably the earliest, through to Glyn Vivian and Ffotogallery, which we are still developing. So, it is the natural next step and it is part of a process of providing access across Wales. It is important to say that the detail of all of this is terribly important, but I know that when people go to places like Bilbao and see what a major centre for the contemporary arts can do to drive regeneration; it can put a city-region on the world map. The quality of the collection in the museum is wonderful, but it is a hidden treasure because it does not have a natural focus. We have an opportunity to take something in Wales which is a strength of ours—the visual arts are a growing strength—and transform it from something that starts to address people in Wales to something that starts to put Wales on a different platform in a European and worldwide context. I think that the report gives us the basis for doing that.

11.50 a.m.

[273] Coming back to the point about the nervousness of the public, we have mostly, as with Oriel Mostyn, had good publicity for the investment to date. However, you sometimes have to be visionary; you have to be able to see that, as a nation, we could aspire to something that is a wonderful network of regional galleries, an excellent national gallery, and a centre for contemporary art that takes us onto the world stage. This report gives us the opportunity to do that.

[274] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you; it has been an interesting debate. Peter made the point that we could aspire, but we must aspire. It is interesting to hear about what is happening. We have an excellent spread of galleries across Wales, and the fact that we are going to have good curatorial support—not just regional, but local authority—is important. Mike made the point that education will start at the front door of the building, but it will start way before then; we need to get the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills to make sure that that happens and that there is money available for it. So, it is very pleasing. There will be another report in 12 to 18-months' time. I am not quite sure where that report will go, because I do not know what the make-up of the committees of the new Assembly will be. However, members of this committee will hopefully keep it in mind so that, whichever committees they happen to be on, we can make sure that this report comes forward. Although 10 years sounds like a long time, having seen what is happening in Swansea with the museum, and having been involved with that, it really is not. Galeri is another wonderful example. We must do all that we can to ensure that we give the nation a wonderful artistic future. I have been told that, in March, we will produce a legacy report—I do not mean that we are going to leave money to anyone—which will go into the system to ensure that those things that we want brought up will be brought up. Thank you; that was excellent.

11.53 a.m.

### **Blaenoriaethau Cyllidebol Budget Priorities**

[275] **Rosemary Butler:** Minister, are you introducing this item?



[276] **Alun Pugh:** I am, thank you, Chair. I want to assure you and members of the committee that we do aspire as a Government. My heart is in the arts, but I spent three years of my formative life doing a business finance degree and, last year, I spent a couple of weeks after the Assembly threw out the budget trying to find £185,000 from the culture budget to meet other Assembly priorities; that process brings out the accountant in me. Members of the committee will know that, as part of the budget planning round and in accordance with Standing Order No. 21, the committee has to consider its budget priorities for the coming year.

[277] To put it in context, this is the first part of the budgetary process, and committees will be consulted again in the autumn on the draft proposals. You will recall that last year's budget planning process concentrated on embedding 'Wales: A Better Country' commitments into the budget and ensuring that expenditure is aligned with our strategic priorities. This year's process will centre on the existing baselines and will focus primarily around social justice, fairness and prosperity.

[278] All committee members will recall that the Government's budgetary proposals were defeated in Plenary. That resulted in this reduction of £185,000 from the culture budget, which greatly limited my ability to respond to committee reports and recommendations. The main focus of the budget round is, therefore, to secure maximum value from existing resources. The Finance Minister has explained that this year's round will allocate from budgets for 2007-08 in line with Treasury convention, and 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be presented on the face of the budget, rolled forward from the financial year 2007-08.

[279] I recently met with representatives of the voluntary sector in one of our routine meetings and I asked them to write to you, Chair, in plenty of time for you to consider the voluntary sector's priorities for the financial year of 2007-08. I hope that you will be able to include their views in the committee's response to me.

[280] I have set out my priorities in the culture, Welsh language and sport portfolio on a number of occasions and the background to this is well known to members of this committee. It is all in the papers for discussion, so, I do not intend to reiterate it now. Finally, to meet the timescale for this budget planning round, laid down by the Finance Minister, the committee is required to give me a formal response by 7 July. So, it is now a question of handing over to committee members to put forward their comments and suggestions as to their priorities.

[281] **Rosemary Butler:** I remind Members of the issues that we raised in our letter to the Minister last year. The committee's proposals were arts and sport regeneration, Welsh writing in English and dance in Wales. We asked for a larger percentage of the overall budget for the culture portfolio and that there should be sufficient running costs for Assembly sponsored public bodies to maintain and develop an appropriate level of service, including funds for pension costs and building maintenance—we heard this morning about how building maintenance is being tackled at the national museum. We felt that there was insufficient detail on the culture budget, especially that there was no breakdown of the cultural fund budget expenditure line. So, that is what we asked for last year. We have to get a draft letter ready by Tuesday, so, I would be grateful if you could mop things up today. However, if we forget anything, let the clerk know, so that it can be included in the draft letter, which will be circulated to you next week.

[282] **Owen John Thomas:** Gwelaf ar dudalen 5 fod gwariant ar gyfer Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru yn dod i gyfanswm o £24,241. Beth yn union yw natur hwnnw a— **Owen John Thomas:** I note on page 5 that the expenditure for the Sports Council for Wales amounts to £24,241. What exactly is the nature of that funding and—

[283] **Alun Pugh:** Mae'n £24.241 miliwn. **Alun Pugh:** It is £24.241 million.

[284] **Owen John Thomas:** Mae'n ddrwg gennyf; £24.241 miliwn. Beth yw natur hwnnw? Yna, ar dudalen 6, mae sôn am 'Y Gronfa Ddiwylliant—Cyfalaf', sydd yn £1.768 miliwn, ac yna o dan 'Cronfa Cymru Ddwyieithog—Buddsoddi Cyfalaf' ceir £177,000. Mae treuliau CADW yn £3.14 miliwn. Beth yn union yw natur yr arian hwnnw a sut mae'n cael ei wario?

**Owen John Thomas:** I am sorry; £24.241 million. What is the nature of that? Then, on page 6, there is a reference to the 'Culture Fund—Capital' being £1.768 million, and there is £177,000 under 'Bilingual Wales Fund—Capital Investment'. CADW expenses are £3.14 million. What exactly is the nature of that funding and how is it spent?

[285] Yn olaf, gwelaf fod y gyllideb wedi codi o ryw £9 miliwn, ond mae sawl maes lle mae'r arian yn mynd i aros yn yr un fan am y ddwy neu dair blynedd nesaf, neu lle mae wedi disgyn ychydig. Mae hynny'n peri gofid imi, gan ei bod yn amlwg, os yw rhywun yn cael llai o arian yn awr na dwy flynedd yn ôl, bydd gwerth yr arian hwnnw mewn dwy flynedd arall yn cynyddu'r ergyd eto. Efallai y byddai'n haws, Weinidog, pe baech yn esbonio pam yr ydych wedi cynyddu cyllid rhai adrannau a gostwng cyllid meysydd eraill.

Finally, I note that the budget has risen by some £9 million, but there are a number of areas where funding will remain at a static level for the next two or three years, or where it has fallen somewhat. That is of concern to me, because it is obvious that, if someone receives less funding now than two years ago, the value of that funding in two years' time will make it an even greater blow. Perhaps it would be easier, Minister, if you explained why you have decided to increase some budgets and allocate less funding in other areas.

[286] **Alun Pugh:** The purpose of today's meeting is to consider committee priorities, rather than to examine existing budgets line by line. With your permission, Chair, I will write formally to Owen John, explaining those issues. However, for example, you referred to the £177,000 bilingual Wales capital investment figure—

[287] **Owen John Thomas:** Ar ba dudalen? **Owen John Thomas:** On what page?

12.00 p.m.

[288] **Alun Pugh:** Ar dudalen 6. **Alun Pugh:** On page 6.

[289] There is £177,000 for bilingual Wales capital investment. That, for example, funds some of the capital investment implications of the Welsh Language Board's work. We grant aid the Welsh Language Board, and the majority of its funding is through revenue support—

[290] **Owen John Thomas:** Er ei fod yn gyfalaf, mae'n cael ei ddefnyddio gan Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg fel refeniw. **Owen John Thomas:** Even though it is capital, it is being used by the Welsh Language Board as revenue.

[291] **Alun Pugh:** No, there are two separate lines in there. There is a revenue line and there is a capital line. You specifically mentioned the £177,000 capital line. That funds the capital investment plans of the Welsh Language Board, for example.

[292] **Owen John Thomas:** Ni allwch fanylu— **Owen John Thomas:** You cannot provide detail—

[293] **Alun Pugh:** We have covered everything from premises to capital investment in ICT systems, and such matters.

[294] **Rosemary Butler:** If there is a detail in the budgeting that you do not understand, we could perhaps ask for a written statement. We want bids for future budgets this morning. I do not want to get too bogged down in the minutiae of this particular budget and it is already 12 p.m..

[295] **Owen John Thomas:** Derbyniaf hynny, ond, yn fyr, mae'n anodd iawn i ni osod blaenoriaethau os nad ydym yn gwybod sut yn union mae'r arian yn cael ei wario. Gallwn wneud sylwadau fod llai o arian ar gael eleni nag oedd y flwyddyn ddiwethaf a bod llai mewn tair blynedd nag sydd yn awr, ond mae'n anodd blaenoriaethu heb gael gweld llawer mwy na beth allwn ei weld ar hyn o bryd.

**Owen John Thomas:** I accept that, but, briefly, it is very difficult for us to set priorities if we do not know exactly how the money is spent. We can comment that there is less money available than there was last year and that there will be less in three years' time than there is at present, but it is difficult to prioritise without seeing more detail than we currently have.

[296] **Alun Pugh:** It is not our intention to withdraw any issues of detail. In correspondence and in questions, I am very happy to provide Members with detail.

[297] You also asked about the step change in the revenue budget. On page 5, under the heading, 'Sports and Active Wales Fund—Current Expenditure', you will recall that we have well-trailed a substantial increase in revenue support for the Sports Council for Wales and the whole issue of the 'Climbing Higher' agenda. That has been a matter of public record for some considerable time now. What you see in that jump from an £18 million expenditure to a £24.2 million expenditure is that step change in money for the active Wales agenda, which will hopefully see a significant increase in sport and active recreation opportunities for the people of Wales and the concomitant benefits for public health.

[298] **Val Lloyd:** I am glad that the Minister just made that point. I add to that that I would like to see that extra money targeted at specific sectors of society rather than being used in a broad-brush manner. I am very pleased with the increase, but I would like to see it targeted at specific sectors of society. I comment particularly on English-language theatre in view of what I read in this morning's newspaper. What is the committee's view on whether there is reasonable funding for English-language theatre?

[299] **Rosemary Butler:** I will take a couple of questions and then come back to the Minister.

[300] **Lisa Francis:** I need some information on the policy reviews that we carried out into community arts and sport regeneration and the dance review. I think that the Minister told us that he had set aside £125,000 per annum in respect of those two reports. I just wondered how that was split up; that would be useful to know. Can we meet the commitments or recommendations made in light of those two reports, particularly on dance, because I know that some of those aspirations are to be carried forward by the education, lifelong learning and skills portfolio? So, is there any cross-cutting there—would there be any moneys coming from your budget to pay for, for example, the teaching of dance in schools?

[301] I would like more money to be made available for museum and library development. CyMAL has been set up, but have all of the priorities there been met with the available budget? Furthermore, has the review of 'Cymru Greadigol', through the new Culture Board, been fully carried out in terms of the budget and how much does it cost, or is that an ongoing issue? Will that also demand more money from this year's budget, if it is not complete?

[302] **Rosemary Butler:** You have asked questions about the present budget, but are you

looking to make bids in the future?

[303] **Lisa Francis:** Not really. If I know the answers to those questions, then we would know what the bids would be.

[304] **Rosemary Butler:** I will take Eleanor next, and then I will get the Minister to answer your questions.

[305] **Eleanor Burnham:** I am very concerned. I have difficulty with the presentation because it is unclear and lacks information. Furthermore, we have a complete lack of time in which to scrutinise it and comment on it. We need to spend far longer on addressing these matters to do them justice. I will go so far as to say that I am an intelligent human being, but I think that we need some slimlining of acronyms and how the budgets are shown, because it has been confusing to many of us who have been honest enough to admit as much.

[306] In the meantime, I will do my utmost to have a look—

[307] **Rosemary Butler:** We asked for simplification previously, and Owen John particularly wanted last year's budget to compare it with this year's budget. We got last year's budget, indicative plans for this year and indicative plans for next year, so, if you want a different outline, you need to tell us exactly what you want so that we can ensure that we can get that.

[308] **Eleanor Burnham:** I will explain to you what I mean. We need clarification. I have a document that the Members' research service gave me, and I will just provide one small example—

[309] **Rosemary Butler:** Can you please just ask questions to the Minister?

[310] **Eleanor Burnham:** No, you asked me what I want.

[311] **Rosemary Butler:** We cannot take all day.

[312] **Eleanor Burnham:** On page 11 of our document, it shows the spending programme area, the budget expenditure line, which is BEL, the annual budget, year-to-date expenditure, and the percentage of the budget that has been spent. If we had that in the presentation from the Minister, we might be able to move forward a little. That is quite helpful, and looking at that particular matrix, a question comes to mind on the transfer of the CyMAL budget. In the note that I have, it states that £1 million of the £3 million CyMAL budget is for CyMAL's divisional running costs, which will be transferred to the central administration main expenditure group later this year. My question is: why is that happening and when will it happen? That is only one of the many questions that we do not have time to ask today.

[313] **Rosemary Butler:** Eleanor, you can ask as many questions as you like—

[314] **Eleanor Burnham:** That is not the case, because you have already said that we are short of time.

[315] **Rosemary Butler:** I did say that, but I have not stopped you asking questions. I would like you to ask questions without a preamble.

[316] **Eleanor Burnham:** I have asked a question and I had to preamble it because—

[317] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you, Eleanor. Will you answer those questions, Minister? We will come back with more.

[318] **Alun Pugh:** On the status of English-language theatre, in my speech to the arts community in Aberystwyth, I announced an additional investment of £500,000 to support that. Is that enough? Probably not, to be honest, but it is a major additional investment to get more quality and quantity onto the stages of our various performance houses in Wales, particularly in south Wales, because we have a structural weakness in the south. We have an excellent company, Theatr Clwyd Cymru, which has a national status that was awarded by the arts council, but I am very aware that we do not have enough production capacity and enough performances of Welsh work on the stages of the south. So, that is that.

[319] On the culture committee's two reports, one was on art and sport and community regeneration, and the other was on dance. An additional £250,000 in 2006-07 and £500,000 in 2007-08 have been specifically earmarked. This money is split 50:50 between those two areas. It represents a positive response to the committee report and recommendations. To be honest, I would have liked to have gone further, but you will recall that our budget proposals were thrown out by Plenary last year. We had to row back, and we ended up spending £185,000 less on culture, language and sport than the Government originally proposed.

[320] On CyMAL, there is a £3 million budget for CyMAL, which is not a quango, but a division of the Assembly Government. It offers information, support, advice and a mentoring network to the museum's archives and library network in Wales. A total of £1 million of its activity covers the cost of doing that. It also operates a grant programme in those three programme areas, and £2 million is available to CyMAL to support those grant areas. That budget was not cut last year. There was a manifesto commitment to invest in libraries and it was important that we took that forward.

12.10 p.m.

[321] On the overall layout and presentation, this is a standard layout, which works across the Assembly—it is not unique to this committee. However, I was conscious that Members specifically asked for further information on the splits. People felt that the split between language, sport and non-linguistic cultural areas was not sufficiently clear in the original spreadsheets. That has now been done, and you can see the capital and revenue implications of all those areas in that. You can clearly see what is in the bilingual Wales fund, and what is in the sport and active Wales fund.

[322] On Lisa's point, we are in the process of working through the culture policy review, which will have budgetary implications. It is rather early in that process to identify budgets, because our primary focus this morning must be on identifying budgetary priorities for the coming financial year. The culture policy drivers will kick in not so much next year, but the year after that.

[323] **Rosemary Butler:** Were your points answered there, Lisa? I know that you want to come in on the budget, but I am concerned that we do not miss out on the opportunity to ask about what we want in addition for next year, and the directions in which we want to go.

[324] **Lisa Francis:** Could you confirm something for me, Minister? Did you just say that £500,000 was set aside for dance for 2007-08?

[325] **Alun Pugh:** It is £250,000 in financial year 2006-07, and £500,000 in financial year 2007-08.

[326] **Lisa Francis:** Right. So that has been ramped up, has it?

[327] **Alun Pugh:** It has been specifically earmarked to support those recommendations. As

I said, I would like to have gone further, but I was not able to do so.

[328] **Lisa Francis:** Is there any cross-cutting between you and education, lifelong learning and skills on this?

[329] **Alun Pugh:** Yes. These budgetary allocations are from my part of the budget, if you like. However, there will be other budgetary implications, for example, in the education department, which will be a matter for Jane Davidson, but she is well clued-in on the dance aspect of the committee's report.

[330] **Rosemary Butler:** It would be interesting to have a note on that, because we asked in Plenary whether there would be additional grant aiding from education, lifelong learning and skills; I think that the committee would like to have that. Therefore, can we arrange to have a report on that one?

[331] **Lisa Francis:** To recap on CyMAL, has that funding stood still, and not gone up? Am I right in my understanding of that?

[332] **Alun Pugh:** If you recall, CyMAL was established as a policy division of the Assembly, a few years ago now. It started from virtually a nil base; I believe that we spent—and I will correct this if I am wrong—around £50,000, for example, on strategic support for libraries. There was virtually nothing going on in terms of central support, so there has been a ramp up—virtually from a zero base, to a £3 million programme, and £2 million in terms of grant support. Therefore, you come up from a small base, up to the £2 million. However, we do not propose to take that higher still; we propose to take that forward steadily.

[333] **Lisa Francis:** Is it possible to get a further breakdown of that £3 million?

[334] **Alun Pugh:** Yes, absolutely. Basically, it covers the grant programme for libraries, which Wrexham library is running on behalf of libraries in Wales, a major marketing project and a small grant programme for archives. It provides many small bits of kit the length and breadth of Wales, and there is additional support for museums, including support for staff development in the sector. We will bring you the detail on that.

[335] **Laura Anne Jones:** Could you make it clear, Minister, whether the marketing costs for attracting and hosting major sporting events is incorporated in the budget? Also, on page 2, the second bullet point, under strengthening Wales's cultural identity and your priorities, mentions developing free swimming on prescription. Can you explain that?

[336] **Alun Pugh:** We are looking to develop the free swimming scheme beyond what was agreed and committed for in the manifesto. You will recall that our manifesto commitment was to provide free swimming to schoolchildren during school holidays, and to the over-60s, which we have done. We are currently evaluating the best practice models coming out of the 22 local authorities that run the scheme on our behalf, and we are seeing many different examples of good practice the length and breadth of Wales. Therefore, in addition to keeping the manifesto commitment going, we are looking to selectively fund, on a project basis, further examples of the development of good practice. I know, for example, that you are very keen to see further emphasis on swimming lessons, so, as well as keeping the manifesto commitment going, we are looking to do additional projects and invest funds on top of that, building on the good practice that is coming forward.

[337] In terms of events, you will recall that we support a wide range of events. We have just come off the back of a very successful Heineken Cup, and we are moving up towards things such as the Ryder Cup and the Wales Rally GB, which are funded from a number of different parts of Government. For example, you will not see the Ryder Cup here, because,

although it is a great sporting tournament, the primary benefit of the Ryder Cup is in economic development, tourism and so on. I am very pleased to say that Andrew Davies's department is funding the Ryder Cup.

[338] **Laura Anne Jones:** It is in line with your 'Climbing Higher' agenda, is it not? So, does it come out of this budget, or are you saying that a bit of it does?

[339] **Alun Pugh:** It is a Government objective to attract high-profile sporting events into Wales. In the specific case of the Ryder Cup, that comes from the economic development budget, but, ultimately, it is all one budget.

[340] **Rosemary Butler:** It is cross-cutting, hopefully.

[341] **Alun Pugh:** Absolutely.

[342] **Laura Anne Jones:** I do not see anything in your written priorities about equality of opportunity across the board. You have not incorporated that.

[343] **Rosemary Butler:** That was a point that I was going to raise.

[344] **Alun Pugh:** It does not have a specific budget line called 'the equal opportunities budget for sport', but we try to mainstream equal opportunities across everything that we do. For example, there is a major investment in sport for people with disabilities, which came through the sports council's budget line, and so on. We do not have a specific budget line, but it is mainstreamed through that everything we do.

[345] **Rosemary Butler:** I think it would be helpful if you said that at the beginning of your statement every time, Minister, so that people are reminded of that.

[346] **Eleanor Burnham:** The reason why I mentioned CyMAL was that the figures from the Members' research service state that there is £3,000—

[347] **Alun Pugh:** It is £3 million.

[348] **Eleanor Burnham:** It is shown as £3,000, which is why I am quoting it from the matrix that we have. Yet, in your figures, it shows £2,000, which is why I was asking the question. Obviously, if we have discrepancies, in the end, there is a lot of mystery. The reason why I keep asking about swimming, in terms of teaching and training, is that you obviously do not account for that, so we will never know whether that comes out of your budget or not. You have talked about the free swimming on many occasions. How much of the money that you have allocated has actually gone into free swimming? We cannot tell from these figures. That is what was behind my initial comments.

[349] **Rosemary Butler:** I was wondering where you were going. I think that we are having a report on the evaluation of free swimming in the autumn, so that will be quite useful. Do you want to answer Eleanor's point about discrepancies?

[350] **Alun Pugh:** Absolutely. If people are confused between millions and thousands, all these tables are denominated in thousands. You will see a triple zero at the column head for all the figures.

[351] **Eleanor Burnham:** I am aware of that, but I am just making the point that the figures we have in the matrix that we have been given by the Members' research service do not equate to your figures. We have £3,000 in ours, which I know is a bigger figure, but you have £2,000 for CyMAL.

[352] **Alun Pugh:** The total CyMAL budget is £3 million. As I have explained, £1 million of it is running costs and £2 million is for the grant scheme.

[353] **Lisa Francis:** Laura raised a point about cross-cutting between portfolios. Has the Minister considered doing any more work on the events strategy, which is very important for Wales with regard to spreading out the economic benefits of not just the Ryder Cup, but the eisteddfod, for example? I have always believed that the former Wales Tourist Board could have been doing far more to promote that—it is now Visit Wales within the Government. I wondered whether that should be something that we should be looking at in terms of budget priorities. An event such as the eisteddfod does a lot, not just for the economy, but for education, for sport—[*Interruption.*]—and for the image of Wales; that is right, Owen John.

12.20 p.m.

[354] So, that is one thing. I wanted to say that it is difficult for us to tailor our aspirations for the budget within such a short time. There are many unanswered questions. Perhaps it is difficult with the time constraints, and perhaps we are trying to squeeze a quart into a pint pot, but if you are asking us to name our budget priorities, can it be done loosely or will we get another opportunity in the autumn?

[355] **Rosemary Butler:** I have raised the issue before, with Sue Essex. We have to make our bids quite early on, and we do not have an opportunity to go back to them before the budget is made. Last year, Sue Essex did it slightly differently and gave us a second chance to have a bid. We have known that the time to make our bids has been coming, and every time I say, 'Okay, we will put that back for when budget time comes, and we will remember to ask about it'. So, if you have an aspiration, put it forward; if the committee does not agree, it does not agree. This is the opportunity, and it is not my doing; it is the system. Owen John, do you want to make any comments?

[356] **Owen John Thomas:** I do not have anything to add to what has been said. I will say something positive in that the layout is better now than it was before, with the pensions money being set separately from the total, and so on. However, you can still look at something listed as 'capital' and wonder what it is actually spent on. Capital expenditure is not clear, unless you are building a new wing in the national museum or something.

[357] **Rosemary Butler:** I accept that point, and we will make it again. However, this is a case of the committee's aspirations of what we would like to see developing.

[358] **Owen John Thomas:** Yes, I appreciate that.

[359] **Rosemary Butler:** Personally, I would like to ensure that the Arts Outside Cardiff money is increased and developed. We have talked about small festivals in the past, and I would like to see the Minister having a budget for festivals, not just for economic development, but a budget for big events, as small festivals could become big events.

[360] **Owen John Thomas:** Would you not agree, Chair, that when we look at this and you say, 'What would you like to spend?' you have to look at some expenditure and say, 'Okay, we do not have extra money, so we have to take some money from somewhere and put it somewhere else'.

[361] **Rosemary Butler:** That is the Minister's problem, is it not?

[362] **Owen John Thomas:** Yes, but also we must understand exactly what that pot is. When you get an analysis of that capital spending, you might realise that it would not be a



good idea to move that to what you are thinking about. So, in other words, until you have that analysis, you cannot make proposals for different expenditure.

[363] **Rosemary Butler:** So, you are not proposing that we make any recommendations to the Minister to look in particular directions, are you?

[364] **Eleanor Burnham:** We will do. I personally think that it is so unclear at the moment for all of the reasons that we have mentioned. It is very difficult to make our aspirations; it is so constraining. This is an issue of how the set up is now; hopefully, after next May—if we are back—there may be some improvements that we can make.

[365] **Lisa Francis:** There are three concerns that I would like to raise. The first is the funding for museums and libraries.

[366] **Rosemary Butler:** This is not the National Library of Wales, is it?

[367] **Lisa Francis:** No, libraries in general. The second is the idea of events such as the national eisteddfod, the Ryder Cup, and so on, which cross-cut portfolios and spread benefits between many portfolios. It is also important that those recommendations are met with the reviews that we carried out. I think that the Minister said that the culture board's review of 'Cymru Greadigol' is still ongoing, and it will possibly identify other areas where spending needs to happen. So, at this stage, it is difficult for us to give you hard and firm proposals; what I have mentioned are just woolly aspirations.

[368] **Owen John Thomas:** That is it in a nutshell, Chair—

[369] **Rosemary Butler:** Laura has indicated, Owen John. You said that you did not want to say anything. I will come back to you, but Laura has been patient.

[370] **Laura Anne Jones:** I think that we could go on forever, but an idea that I had was that we need to ensure the maintenance of playing fields across the board for all sports. How is it mentioned here, and what money is going to help local authorities to do that? Are you sending money down that way, Minister?

[371] **Rosemary Butler:** That is in the local government settlement, is it not? Eleanor, do you want to come back?

[372] **Eleanor Burnham:** I have been asked about sports facilities in—

[373] **Laura Ann Jones:** Does that come from this budget to go into that budget? Is the Minister making recommendations?

[374] **Eleanor Burnham:** I have been asking about sports facilities and playing fields generally for months. I have asked about having an audit through the local authorities. The other quite timid question that I have asked—to which I have had the most incredible response when I have been trying to find information—is about the music development fund. Getting information on that has been like trying to get something out of Fort Knox.

[375] **Rosemary Butler:** You could make a bid this morning to say that the Minister should—

[376] **Eleanor Burnham:** No, I have been asking the Minister in questions.

[377] **Rosemary Butler:** You have an opportunity here to register that.

[378] **Eleanor Burnham:** I am making my point now. The music development fund is close to my heart. I would also like to know about sports facilities. I would like to see an audit through local authorities of what we have at the moment. As we heard this morning, they are totally insufficient.

[379] **Rosemary Butler:** Owen John?

[380] **Owen John Thomas:** I have nothing to add.

[381] **Rosemary Butler:** I thought that you were going to come back.

[382] **Owen John Thomas:** No.

[383] **Rosemary Butler:** Okay, the Minister can come back then. We are looking at trying to ensure that local government is encouraged to put whatever money we give it through the allocation into sports facilities. We can also look at that when the WLGA comes here in September, and reinforce that point. A request has been made for more money for libraries and museums; not for the national library and museums, but the others. I think that Val Lloyd raised the issue of ensuring funding for English-language theatre. The Arts Outside Cardiff money was quite important. We agreed on the small festivals. We need to look at cross-cutting issues. The music development fund was raised. People would like to see more money for the development of smaller orchestras too, not only in schools, but also outside schools.

[384] **Laura Anne Jones:** I would like to raise one more point, which relates to something that I learned today—the logistic disadvantage fund that Sports Council Wales had for football.

[385] **Rosemary Butler:** It was not the sports council, but the FAW Trust.

[386] **Laura Anne Jones:** That is the sort of thing that we need to develop for sport right across the board, as it is very expensive for parents to try to send their children to roller-hockey or cricket or whatever it may be. It might be worthwhile putting money into that.

[387] **Rosemary Butler:** It is a local government issue. We will get more information from the FAW Trust on what it is doing with that. Minister, would you like to respond?

[388] **Alun Pugh:** As far as libraries are concerned, the establishment of CyMAL—Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales has been very good. It has meant that, for the first time, project and development funding has been available to libraries on top of the statutory obligation on local authorities to provide a public library service.

[389] There were a couple of points that impinge on the relationship between the Assembly Government, the Assembly, and local government. Playing fields were mentioned, as was the music development fund. Members are aware that, at the moment, the vast majority of local government funding is not hypothecated. The music development fund was extended well beyond its original life, and there is a collective policy agreement between the Assembly Government and local government in Wales of all political persuasions. That money has gone into the rate support grant, and some local authorities have maintained and developed their music services, while some have not. I know that Jane Davidson has pointed that out to local authorities. The same point applies to playing fields. As part of the rate support grant, we do not say to a local authority, 'This is your playing field development pot', as it were. Local authorities have obligations, responsibilities, and an electoral mandate, but we do not earmark every tiny pot of local government expenditure.

[390] As far as events are concerned, Lisa, there is no line here saying 'support for events'.

So, for example, support for the national eisteddfod, which is one of the cultural glories of Wales, does not come out of a specific ‘events’ budget line; it is part of the development of bilingual Wales and, therefore, the financial support that both the national eisteddfod and the Urdd eisteddfod receives is included in the ‘bilingual Wales’ fund current expenditure; it will be a part of that £9.3 million-worth budget. It is not an events budget.

[391] Finally, the culture policy review will not inform next year’s budget, but future budget rounds. What we need to do to wrap up and inform this year’s budgeting process is to identify some priorities, and then, hopefully, we can all vote for them when the Government’s budget proposals come forward.

[392] **Rosemary Butler:** We could just add access or transport for sports and arts to that list. Okay, we will write a letter and circulate it and, if there are any observations, I remind you that we will have to get the letter in by 7 July. Thank you for that.

12.30 p.m.

### **Teledu heb Ffiniau Television without Frontiers**

[393] **Rosemary Butler:** We have one more item, which is just an item to note. Does anyone want to make any comments on Television without Frontiers?

[394] **Eleanor Burnham:** I just wondered how it affects us, because broadcasting—as we keep being reminded, even though we keep asking about it—is not a devolved matter. There are issues surrounding the mystery of whether areas in my region of north-east Wales, for instance, will ever have an improved ability to know what we are doing down here; at the moment, they do not know anything. People do not seem to be able to tell me properly what will happen on digitalisation, and I am concerned as to whether this has any implications on those matters.

[395] **Rosemary Butler:** You are right that it is not a devolved issue, but we spend an enormous amount of time talking about it, because it is very important. That is why it is here, for you to note. If anyone wants to make any comments, this is an opportunity for them to do so.

[396] **Owen John Thomas:** I could not hear what you said in the first place. What is it that you have in front of you?

[397] **Rosemary Butler:** It is Television without Frontiers, the last item on the agenda. Eleanor has made the point that it is not devolved, but we have discussed it. If anyone wants to make any comments, they can. Do you want to make a comment, Minister?

[398] **Alun Pugh:** As you said, it is not a devolved matter; this is a European Union paper. There has been significant argument within the European Union on this. It covers the provision of content to one member state, which originated in another, so it has nothing to do with the transmission patterns of broadcast television in Britain. However, when the directive eventually becomes European law, it will affect the content of every television screen in the whole of the European Union. There is a series of detailed proposals in there, but it is nowhere near the finished job. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will be leading on this on behalf of the UK Government. Every one of the 25 member states will have a view on it, and that tends to depend largely on viewing patterns in that country. For example, much of what people watch on Belgian television does not originate in Belgium. In Britain, however, the situation is entirely different, as the vast majority of television that is watched in

Britain has originated in the UK. It is very different in other parts of the European Union.

[399] **Rosemary Butler:** Just to refresh people's minds, we made our comments on reception and the general non-accessibility of programmes in different parts of Wales in our response to the BBC White Paper. Thank you very much indeed. I am sorry that we ran over, but this morning's meeting was very interesting.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 12.33 p.m.*  
*The meeting ended at 12.33 p.m.*